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Marines' 'leave pledge' requires good behavior

Corps hopes promise will reduce off-duty accidents Page 7



Old enemies, new partners

Iraqi, U.S. forces break bread and build a new army

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Soldiers with the U.S. Army and the Iraqi army patrol together in November on the outskirts of Mosul. U.S. trainers say they're making headway in building a self-sustaining Iraqi force.

AP

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Japan earthquake: Officials warned of further damage in quake-hit southern Japan on Tuesday as heavy rains and aftershocks threatened to dislodge grounds already loosened two days earlier by a powerful magnitude-7.0 temblor that killed one and injured hundreds.

Japan's Meteorological Agency issued a warning for heavy rains of up to 3.2 inches, saying they could trigger possible landslides around Fukuoka city.

A strong magnitude-5.1 aftershock also hit the area Tuesday afternoon, but Fukuoka police said there were no immediate reports of additional damage. Officials said there was no danger of a tsunami.

Mad cow in Italy: Two cows in northern Italy have tested positive for mad cow disease, the first cases detected this year, the Health Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said analysis confirmed a positive result in a 9-year-old cow from a breeding farm in the countryside of Brescia and in a 12-year-old cow in Cuneo. The number of cases detected in the country since testing began in 2001 has risen to 126.

Kosovo's disputed status: Germany's Defense Minister called Tuesday for Kosovo's disputed status to be resolved quickly and pledged to keep his country's peacekeepers in the province until the issue was solved.

German Defense Minister Peter Struck, who flew to Kosovo for a brief visit after spending time with troops in neighboring Bosnia, said that 2,500 German peacekeepers will stay as part of the NATO-led peacekeeping force, but urged action to end the province's political limbo.

Afghan fighting: Police confronted a group of suspected Taliban guerrillas in southeastern Afghanistan, sparking a gunbattle in which one rebel was killed and another arrested, an official said Tuesday.

A police officer also was wounded in the clash Monday morning in Mizan district of Zabul province, district chief Rahmatullah Khan said.

Kyrgyzstan protests: Opposition supporters and police formed joint patrols to keep order in a southern city of Kyrgyzstan where protesters have seized government offices, and President Askar Akayev pledged Tuesday he would not impose a state of emergency despite demonstrations over alleged election fraud.

Akayev's statement — a day after opposition protesters took control of the southern city of Osh and several other towns — appeared aimed at avoiding an escalation of tensions in the country, where memories of police killing six demonstrators in 2002 are still strong.

States

Letterman plot: A man pleaded not guilty Tuesday to plotting to kidnap David Letterman's 16-month-old son and nanny and hold them for \$5 million ransom.

Kelly Frank, 43, faces felony charges of solicitation and theft and a misdemeanor charge of obstruction. The judge ordered him to remain jailed on bail pending his next court appearance on April 5.

Lodge explosion: Despite heavy snowfall, embers still glowed in the rubble of a mountain lodge Monday as authorities began searching for the bodies of three children killed when a fiery explosion leveled the re-



Dorm fire trial: Donna Dugas, left, mother of defendant Lucas Goodrum, is embraced by her husband Bruce Dugas, Monday in Owensboro, Ky., after Goodrum was found not guilty in the murder of 18-year-old Katie Autry. Autry was found in her Western Kentucky University dorm room raped, beaten and burned on May 4, 2003. She died three days later. "I'm just happy justice has prevailed today," Goodrum said at a news conference, surrounded by members of his family.

mote building.

The victims were identified as Leslie Ann Bilbrey, 12, Isaac Michael Watkins, 2, and Jamie Marie Rende, 16. All were part of the same extended family that had been visiting the lodge, family spokesman Dale Harper said in a news release issued by St. Mary's Hospital in nearby Grand Junction, Colo. The statement did not list their relationship or hometowns, and Harper declined to comment.

Neil Bush slander case: The ex-wife of President Bush's brother Neil has settled a slander case accusing her of spreading rumors that Neil Bush fathered a child with his mistress. The terms of the settlement were not immediately disclosed.

DNA testing last year showed Neil Bush did not father the boy, then 3.

Sharon and Neil Bush divorced in 2003 after 23 years of marriage. Neil Bush then married Maria Andrews Bush last March. She was formerly married to Robert Andrews, who was established as the boy's father by DNA testing.

Prison standoff trial: Defending himself against charges stemming from a 2004 prison hostage standoff, an inmate told jurors Monday he participated in the takeover because he wanted to transfer to another lockup closer to his family in Michigan.

Prison officials agreed to transfer convicted armed robber Ricky Wassenaar to a prison in Wisconsin in a deal that ended the standoff at the Arizona State Prison Complex-Lewis on Feb. 1, 2004.

Presidential election hearing: The state's election chief told lawmakers at a sometimes-testy congressional hearing that Ohio's presidential election went as smoothly as possible, given the resources available

and some last-minute interpretations by state and federal courts.

Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell testified Monday before members of the U.S. House Administration Committee during a special hearing at the Ohio Statehouse. Members of the committee peppered Blackwell with questions about provisional ballots, long voting lines and other issues in the election that gave President George W. Bush the 20 electoral votes he needed to capture re-election.

Businessman slaying: A mother and son were each sentenced Monday to life in prison without parole for killing a Los Angeles businessman — five years after the two received identical sentences for the murder of a wealthy New York socialite.

Santes Kimes, 71, was convicted in July 2004 of first-degree murder in the death of David Kazdin, whose body was found in a trash bin near Los Angeles International Airport in 1998. Her son, Kenneth Kimes, pleaded guilty to the murder in 2003 and agreed to testify against her.

Business

WorldCom lawsuits: The last former WorldCom board member in a lawsuit brought by investors in the collapsed company agreed on Monday to pay \$4.5 million out of his own pocket to settle the claim.

The settlement reached by Bert Roberts, a former chairman of WorldCom, brings to \$24.75 million the total 12 former board members are paying personally to settle the class action suit.

Insurers for the 12 are kicking in an additional \$36 million.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Correction

The headline on a story Tuesday about the 69th Transportation Company leaving Germany for a deployment in Afghanistan misidentified the company.

Roadside bomb targets U.S. patrol in Mosul

4 civilians dead in blast; U.S. delegation meets al-Jaafari

BY EDWARD HARRIS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants in the northern city of Mosul targeted a U.S. patrol with a roadside bomb Tuesday that killed four civilians, and officials in the south found the corpses of six Iraqi soldiers, their hands bound and their bodies riddled with bullets.

The U.S. patrol was hit by a homemade bomb in a northwestern neighborhood of Mosul, damaging a Humvee as it crossed a bridge, hospital officials said, citing witnesses.

Four civilians in a car near the blast were killed, the officials said.

It was unclear whether any American troops were hurt, and U.S. military officials were not immediately available for comment.

Gunbattles erupted in the streets of the southern Baghdad neighborhood of Dora, where militants wearing black hoods and riding in three cars opened fire on people shopping along a main thoroughfare. Shopkeepers and residents returned fire, killing three assailants. A man, woman and child were injured and taken to a hospital.

Iraq's next likely prime minister, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, indicated to a U.S. congressional delegation that he was in no hurry to have U.S.-led coalition troops leave.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., said al-Jaafari was not as "upbeat as our people, who seem to be very excited about the quality of the Iraqi police force."

"My sense was, he was certainly in no rush to hand over security to his new police force," Boxer, a vocal opponent of the war, said during a visit to Baghdad.

The U.S. military reported the death of a Marine in a restive western province. The Marine, assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, was killed in action Monday in Anbar province, which contains the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, the U.S. military said.

The corpses of the six Iraqi soldiers were brought to the morgue in Kut, a city about 100 miles southeast of Baghdad, said Hadi Al-Itabi of Al-Zahra Hospital. The soldiers' hands were tied and their heads and torsos were riddled with bullets.



U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,522 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,158 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A Marine was killed while on a security detail Sunday in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Jonathan A. Hughes, 21, Lebanon, Ky.; killed Friday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Iraq; assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery Regiment, Campbellsville, Ky.

■ Army Pfc. Lee A. Lewis Jr., 28, Norfolk, Va.; killed Friday by enemy gunfire while on patrol in Iraq; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

■ Army Sgt. Paul W. Thomas III, 37, Talbot, Tenn.; killed when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Kirkuk, Iraq; assigned to National Guard's 2nd Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team, Greenville, Tenn.

Iraq Defense Ministry officials said they had no information on the incident.

Separately, six Iraqi soldiers were kidnapped in Anbar province, west of Baghdad, an area known as a rebel stronghold, Ramadi police major Mohamed Al-Dulaimi said Tuesday. Witnesses said about a dozen masked men grabbed the soldiers, who were dressed in civilian clothes, as they headed to a bus station.

In Mosul, a convoy of security officials was ambushed late Monday, sparking a gunbattle that killed 17 militants, said Col. Wathiq Ali, deputy police commander. No security forces were hurt, and 14 militants were detained, Ali said.

Among those in the convoy was top police chief Brig. Gen. Abu Al-Waleed, he said.

In the eastern city of Kirkuk, the director of the Iraqi Army's



AP photos

Above: An Iraqi police commando watches over security at the Jordanian Embassy on Tuesday in Baghdad. Iraq sought to soothe relations with neighboring Jordan, with both nations agreeing to return their respective ambassadors after a weekend diplomatic dispute. Above left: U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., left, shakes hands with Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the likely next Iraqi prime minister, during a visit by a U.S. congressional delegation in Baghdad. Al-Jaafari indicated to the delegation Tuesday that he was in no hurry to have U.S.-led coalition troops leave.

legal department died Tuesday of wounds suffered late Sunday when gunmen shot him outside his home, said Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin of the Iraqi army.

Meanwhile, Iraq sought to soothe relations with neighboring Jordan, with both agreeing to return their respective ambassadors after a weekend diplomatic dispute over terrorism.

On Tuesday, Iraq's national security adviser, Mouwafak

al-Rubaie, said his nation's ambassador to Jordan would return "as soon as practically possible." The announcement came a day after King Abdullah II ordered the return of Jordan's top diplomat in Iraq, the official Jordanian news agency reported.

Both countries withdrew their envoys Sunday after arguing about the infiltration of Jordanian insurgents across their common border.

Ukraine president signs order for Iraq withdrawal

BY NATASHA LISOVA

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — President Viktor Yushchenko has signed an order for the withdrawal of Ukraine's troops from Iraq, the head of the country's security council said Tuesday — cementing a pledge by the new leadership to bring back its 1,650-strong force.

Ukraine began pulling out its servicemen from Iraq last week and plans to complete the withdrawal of its troops by the end of the year. The ex-Soviet republic, which first sent troops to Iraq in Septem-

ber 2003, provided the sixth-largest contingent in the U.S.-led coalition.

Eighteen Ukrainian soldiers have died in Iraq and more than two dozen have been wounded, fueling public dismay about the unpopular deployment.

More than 130 soldiers returned home last week, and Ukraine plans to withdraw an additional 550 soldiers from Iraq by May 15 and the rest of the original contingent by the end of the year, the Defense Ministry has said.

The head of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, Petro Poroshenko told a news conference Tuesday that in a

formal move the president had signed an order making the withdrawal irreversible.

"The president has signed the plan for a staged withdrawal of our peacekeeping contingent from Iraq," Poroshenko said. "The plan is a very carefully crafted document which details the terms of the Ukrainian pullout from Iraq."

The end date for the pullout will be "fixed after consultations with the other coalition members" and the Ukrainian contingent is likely to leave Iraq in November or December, Poroshenko said.

The troop pullout was one of the new president's campaign promises.

Ukraine strongly opposed the U.S.-led war but later agreed to send a large contingent to serve under Polish command in central and southern Iraq.

Ukraine's participation in the U.S.-led coalition is deeply unpopular at home, but Yushchenko has said Ukraine should keep a presence in Iraq and take part in development and reconstruction efforts there.

Last year, Ukrainian companies were awarded contracts to supply the Iraqi military and development companies with weapons, equipment and vehicles.

Poroshenko said that a Ukrainian delegation of diplomats and defense officials will visit Iraq next week.

Training connects former enemies

U.S. efforts to build Iraqi army persist

BY DAVID ZUCCHINO
Los Angeles Times

When Brig. Gen. Karl Horst fought during the invasion of Iraq two years ago, he didn't bother learning the names of Saddam Hussein's generals.

"I didn't care who they were — we were going to kill them," he said.

Last week, during a parade-ground ceremony at the Baghdad airport, Horst kissed the whiskered cheeks of an Iraqi general who once was awarded the country's highest military honor by Saddam himself.

The airport scene, where top U.S. commanders shared roast chicken and rice with several former officers of the dictator's army, brought into sharp focus the new military reality here. American generals are embracing former enemy leaders, many of them once banned from the new Iraqi army by U.S. authorities, but now courted as partners in building an effective Iraqi fighting force.

Today, the top priority of U.S. commanders is training the Iraqi army and police to one day battle the country's insurgents on their own. As U.S. officers frequently tell reporters, "Our job is to train ourselves out of a job."

The last time U.S. trainers tried to rebuild an Arab army in the midst of a sectarian war and terrorist attacks — in Lebanon in the early 1980s — the effort failed.



The obstacles in Iraq are enormous. Saddam, paranoid about coups, kept his army isolated and unable to communicate. U.S. trainers say Iraqi soldiers have little concept of officer accountability or a non-commissioned officer corps with effective authority and leadership.

Many have refused orders to fight, and when they do fight, their fire is often undisciplined.

Both U.S. and Iraqi commanders are so concerned about ethnic rivalries that they refuse to provide ethnic breakdowns of the new army's makeup. Saddam's army was dominated by Sunnis and was used to crush Shiite and Kurd uprisings. The new army has more Shiites and Kurds than Sunnis — prompting fears by Sunnis that they will be targeted for retribution.

For U.S. commanders training to confront the enemy, the ambitious program is a departure from the traditional focus on combat. The training of foreign armies is normally left to U.S. Special Forces, who are assisting in the Iraqi program.

On Feb. 21, just as new American units were replacing outgoing troops in the third rotation since the invasion, an Iraqi army brigade was put in charge of its own "battle space" for the first time.

About 1,500 soldiers of the 40th Brigade took responsibility for a swath of central Baghdad that includes the insurgent strongholds of Haifa Street and the Adhamiya district.

The brigade conducts operations on its own, U.S. commanders said, although it is still under the overall command of an American general.



Top: First Armored Division instructors and interpreters train Iraqi army soldiers at the Iraq Civil Defense Corps Academy in Baghdad in January 2004. Efforts to build a self-sustaining fighting force are a major focus of U.S. exit strategies. As U.S. officers frequently tell reporters, "Our job is to train ourselves out of a job."
Bottom: Pfc. Zachary Morrison, from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, patrols Baghdad's Haifa Street with soldiers from the 303rd Iraqi Army Battalion. Many Iraqis wear masks while on patrol for fear of reprisals against themselves or their families

Top: RETNALDO RAMON Courtesy of the Defense Visual Information Center
Bottom: MARK PEYOR Courtesy of www.army.mil

"Embedded" U.S. trainers remain with the battalion as advisers but do not direct operations. U.S. officers said. U.S. forces stand ready to assist the brigade.

"This is a very significant event — it represents a fundamental shift toward Iraqi self-sufficiency," said Horst, assistant commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, which took over control of central Baghdad from the 1st Cavalry Division in late February.

"It's a tough assignment. Haifa Street is like the bar scene in 'Star Wars,'" he said. "There are lots of scary people around there."

Elsewhere, Iraqi soldiers routinely patrol American units.

Many wear hoods or masks because of assassination threats by insurgents. In re-

cent months the insurgency has shifted its focus of attacks away from U.S. units to Iraqi army and police targets, particularly new recruits. Thousands have been killed or seriously wounded.

At the Baghdad airport ceremony, American and Iraqi generals marked the formation of the 41st Brigade. U.S. trainers are working with 215 Iraqis in the brigade's headquarters company, the first of 5,000 brigade soldiers to be trained to patrol central Baghdad in the coming months.

As the Iraqis and Americans exchanged their shared meal, there was a sudden reminder of what they're up against: A rocket and two mortars slammed down nearby, causing no casualties but sending the new soldiers, and their trainers, scattering for cover.

Next generation of Predators will be more lethal

BY WALTER PINCUS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The newest version of the Air Force's Predator unmanned aircraft will perform primarily "hunter-killer" missions, according to newly available Pentagon documents.

The current Predator's primary mission has been to supply real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance for other forces. The new Predator B will perform that as a secondary role, according to the documents sent to Congress last month and now published on a Pentagon Web site.

The current Predator, which CIA operators originally armed with just two Hellfire missiles in late 2001, has since proven itself in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Predator B will be armed with as many as 3,000 pounds of precision-guided bombs or missiles and carry sensors that will allow

it to automatically find, track and hit moving targets on the ground.

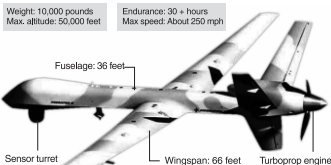
The new aircraft would be intended to fulfill broader tasks outlined in the National Defense Strategy signed March 1 by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. The strategy calls for denying sanctuary to enemies such as terrorist groups in ungoverned territories within otherwise sovereign countries anywhere in the world.

"A key goal," the Rumsfeld strategy program says, "is developing the capability to surge military forces rapidly from strategic distances to deny adversaries sanctuary." To do this, the strategy paper calls for "a number of capabilities, including persistent surveillance and precision strikes."

The Predator B will fly at 50,000 feet, twice the altitude capable by its predecessor, and will carry seven times the munitions load. It will be able to stay aloft

The killer 'B'

The Predator drone's new "B" variant turns what was mostly a reconnaissance craft into a hunter-killer that can carry up to 3,000 pounds of guided munitions.



Source: General Atomics Aeronautical Systems

for more than 30 hours, covering targets hundreds of miles from its launch base.

The current Predator already

Courtesy: THE WASHINGTON POST/ATLAP

carries a targeting system built into a sensor turret that has both electro-optical and infrared imagery, a laser target marker and in-

frared illuminator.

Powered by a new turboprop engine, the Predator B has started undergoing tests using advanced sensors and weapons payloads, controlled by pilots on the ground operating instruments that "function as the aircraft cockpit," one document says. From ground control stations at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas or new mobile ground stations that can be deployed abroad, Predator Bs can be manually or automatically run on missions almost anywhere in the world, using a combination of satellite and ground-based communications.

At a House Armed Services subcommittee hearing March 9, the price next year for each Predator was put at \$12.5 million by Rep. Neil Abernethy (D-Hawaii). Over the next five years, Pentagon documents project purchases of 10 Predators to replace those that crash or are shot down and 24 Predator Bs, with the first 20 to be used for testing.

SEAL's trial for alleged abuse postponed

BY SETH HETTENA

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A judge postponed court-martial proceedings for a Navy SEAL accused of prisoner abuse in a case that implicates the CIA in a gruesome death at the Abu Ghraib prison.

The SEAL testimony is accused of punching an Iraqi detainee in the arm and striking his men to abuse the prisoner, who later died during CIA interroga-

tion at the prison in Iraq.

The trial was postponed Monday by a naval judge to give attorneys time to resolve several issues, including how they will use classified material and witnesses. A new trial date was expected to be scheduled for May or June.

Through his attorney, the lieutenant pleaded not guilty to all charges and requested a trial with a jury of Navy officers.

To protect the safety of terror-

ist-hunting SEALs, the Navy is identifying the lieutenant and fellow commandos in the courtroom by the first letter of their last names — a step experts on military law say is virtually unprecedented.

In November 2003, the SEALs went after Iraqi Mandeel al-Jamadi, a suspect in the bombing last month earlier of Red Cross offices in Iraq that killed 12. Documents and testimony show the

CIA believed he knew the location of a pile of explosives.

On the night of Nov. 4, the SEALs burst into al-Jamadi's apartment outside Baghdad, subdued him after a struggle and whisked him back to their base. En route, the SEALs allegedly kicked and punched al-Jamadi and struck him with their rifles. They also posed for photos with the hooded and handcuffed prisoner.

The SEALs turned al-Jamadi

over to the CIA. A few hours later, he was dead.

The lieutenant, who led a platoon from SEAL Team Seven in Coronado, Calif., faces charges of assault, dereliction of duty and conduct unbecoming an officer. He faces a maximum of nearly 12 years in prison, loss of pay and benefits, and dismissal from the Navy.

The SEALs are an elite commando force named for Sea, Air, Land.

Hearing begins for GI accused in Afghan death

The Associated Press

EL PASO — An attorney for a soldier accused of beating an Afghan detainee to death in 2002 said his client should not be held solely responsible because authority figures used the same tactics.

Pfc. Willie V. Brand of the 377th Military Police Company is charged with involuntary manslaughter, maiming, assault, maltreatment and false swearing.

The Cincinnati man is accused of killing a man identified only as Dilawar at the main U.S. detention facility in Bagram, Afghanistan, by destroying his leg muscle tissue with repeated knee strikes.

On Monday, the opening day of Brand's Article 32 hearing, attorney John P. Galligan said Brand's superiors either directly knew or should have known about the use of the knee-strike technique. He said records and testimony will show that others in positions of authority also used the practice.

"Unfortunately, we have many soldiers deployed to a war zone with inadequate training, equipment and resources to conduct very dangerous missions in a new type of war," Galligan said.

The hearing, being held at Fort Bliss, Texas, will determine whether the case is referred for a general court-martial. It is expected to last two to three days.

"I thought it went reasonably well, like a dental appointment," Brand told the El Paso Times after Monday's hearing ended.

Brand is accused of beating Dilawar to death over a five-day period at Bagram Combat Point, just north of Kabul. An autopsy showed that Dilawar's legs were so damaged by blows that amputation would have been necessary if he had survived.

Dilawar died from "blunt force trauma to the lower extremities complicating coronary artery disease," according to an Army report dated July 6, 2004.

Galligan said the knee-strike technique is a "well-known mechanism designed to ensure compliance with a combative detainee."

"We would argue that [the knee strikes] had been legitimately done in the course of restraining an individual," he said.

The charges against Brand include assault and maltreatment of another prisoner, Mullah Hebatullah Habibullah, also died, but Brand is not charged in connection with his death.

Another member of the Cincinnati-based 377th Company, Sgt. James P. Boland, has been charged with assault, maltreatment and dereliction of duty in Dilawar's death, and dereliction of duty in Habibullah's death. The Army on Monday said in a statement that it is investigating whether other soldiers also were involved.

Keeping old munitions out of insurgents' hands



An Iraqi villager leads U.S. soldiers to a cache of munitions located near Mandali, Iraq, near the Iranian border Monday. Hundreds of thousands of rusty munitions from the Iran-Iraq war are scattered across the two countries' common border. Long ignored, they are now being harvested by insurgents who recycle them into crude bombs and use them against U.S. and Iraqi troops.

FBI concerns of abuse at Gitmo deleted from memo

BY R. JEFFREY SMITH

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — U.S. law enforcement agents working at the military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, concluded that controversial interrogation practices used there by the Defense Department produced intelligence information that was "suspect at best," an FBI agent told a superior in a memo last May.

But the Justice Department, which reviewed the memo for national security secrets before releasing it to a civil liberties group in December, redacted the FBI agent's conclusion. The department, acting after the Defense Department expressed its own views on which portions of the letter should be redacted, also blacked out a separate claim in the memo that military interrogation practices could undermine future military trials for terrorism suspects held at Guantanamo Bay.

It also withheld a statement by the memo's author that Justice Department criminal division officials were so concerned about the military interrogation practices that they took their complaints to the office of the Pentagon's chief attorney, William Haynes II.

The revelations in the memo, released Monday by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., generally amplify previously disclosed FBI concerns that

military interrogators at the island prison were using coercive interrogation methods that could compromise any evidence of terrorist activities they obtained. FBI agents and officials had complained about the shackling of detainees to the floor for periods exceeding 24 hours without food and water, the draping of a detainee in an Israeli flag and the use of growling dogs to scare detainees.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, who as White House counsel participated in detailed discussions about the legality of aggressive military interrogation techniques, has twice publicly expressed skepticism about the reliability of these FBI accounts.

But the May 10, 2004, memo, written by an official whose name has not been disclosed, contains a highly detailed account of the efforts that FBI agents made to persuade the Defense Department that its interrogation practices were wrongheaded.

Levin, who had pushed the Justice Department to release a version of the memo that included the new disclosures, on Monday sharply criticized the department's initial handling of it. "As I suspected, the previously withheld information had nothing to do with protecting intelligence sources and methods, and everything to do with protecting the DOD from embarrassment," Levin said.

Mud-wrestling GI discharged from Army for baring breasts

BY BRIAN KATES

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — The Camp Bucca flasher returned to her North Carolina home Monday after being booted from the military for baring her breasts during a wild mud-wrestling party at the U.S. Army's main prison in Iraq.

Pvt. Deanna Allen, forced out of the military with a general discharge, said she may appeal the ruling because it will deny her some veterans' benefits.

"They are taking away my college and that has me very upset," Allen told the New York Daily News. "I plan to file an appeal."

The 19-year-old military police prison guard made headlines around the world when the Washington Post published photos of her flashing her breasts as she wrestled in a mud-filled pool with other scantily clad women soldiers. Male GIs gawked and snapped pictures.

The episode took place Oct. 30, in the same period when enemy detainees were being transferred to Camp Bucca in southern Iraq from Abu Ghraib, the prison made notorious by photos of Americans torturing naked Iraqis.

In addition to the mud wrestling, military police were investigating reports that sergeants lent their rooms to GIs for booze-fueled sex romps.

Military experts have branded the incident as a serious breakdown in discipline at a time when the United States was trying to mend its reputation in Iraq and in the Arab world.

The party allegedly was arranged by high-ranking sergeants, but so far Allen has been the only soldier to be punished.

She was sent stateside in late February, and this week, she was being treated at the military hospital at Fort Bragg, N.C., for what she said was an infected canine-spider bite.

She was "discharged out" — military jargon for involuntarily discharged — after being demoted from specialist to private.

Allen's National Guard unit, the 10th Military Police Battalion out of Asheville, N.C., is still in Iraq, assigned to guard Iraqi detainees at Camp Bucca.

Marines to sign safety pledge before leave

By JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — With the Marine Corps facing a spike in off-duty accidents, all Marines must now sign a pledge promising to be safe before going on leave.

"Essential to our mission, I pledge to maintain my commitment with a constant display of honor and professionalism," reads the pledge. "I will, whenever possible, minimize risks to my safety and return from leave prepared to continue 'the fight.'"

The new policy, announced in a Corps-wide message, also will require immediate supervisors to swear they are confident their Marines will carry through on their promise.

The idea, officials say, is to raise safety awareness, help Marines remember they're Marines 24/7, even while on leave — and highlight accountability.

"This forces the onus of responsibility down to the individual Marine, holding him or her accountable for their actions," said Lt. Col. Brad Cantrell, a top Marine Corps safety official.

The new "Leave Pledge" comes after 55 Marines have died in off-duty mishaps over the past 12 months.

"The toll these accidents have taken in lives and on operational readiness was a major topic of discussion" among a recent gathering of general officers, according to the policy message, signed by Assistant Commandant Gen. W.L. Nyland.

Returning from the meeting, Marine Forces Atlantic commander Lt. Gen. Mar-

tin Berndt tasked five of his Marines to come up with an idea that might help curb the problem.

Taking a page from the playbook used by high schools to fight from night driving, the four corporals and a sergeant crafted the leave pledge.

"We wanted something that would make Marines think," said Cpl. Terrence Harrell, one of the five tapped by Berndt. "Everyone knows when your name is on the bottom line, you've got to stand by it."

Harrell said he couldn't forget a buddy on Okinawa who was nearly killed a few years ago in an off-duty car accident during a 72-hour pass when a drunken driver slammed into his car. The only reason the Marine survived, Harrell said, was because he remembered to wear his seat belt. But many forget.

Safety briefings now have become so commonplace, he said, for many Marines "it just goes in one ear and out the other. We wanted this pledge to be a wake-up call, not the death of a fellow Marine."

Their pledge was so well received by the brass, Marine Corps commandant Gen. Mike Hagee decided to adopt it Corps-wide.

The implementation of this policy will further emphasize the importance of safe and professional conduct by all Marines, both on and off duty, and is a vitally important tool for improving safety awareness and preserving overall combat readiness," Nyland wrote.

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: jon.anderson@stripes.osd.mil

Corps struggling to limit accidents

Marine Commandant Gen. Mike Hagee is charging all Marines to do more to reduce accidents — both on duty and off.

Less than halfway through the fiscal year, the Corps already has failed to meet accident prevention goals in one category and is tracking to go over in the rest, Hagee wrote in a recent Corps message.

"We have a responsibility to become actively engaged in stopping the reckless and thoughtless behavior that leads to mishaps. We need to take charge and assume responsibility for managing risk and preventing future mishaps," wrote Hagee.

In what he called a midyear recap, Hagee said the Corps is struggling to reduce "Class-A Mishaps," safety-speak for accidents that result in a fatality, permanent total disability, or \$1 million or more of total property damage.

Among the goals and where the Corps stands so far:

■ Off-duty — Goal: 32 Class-A accidents or less. So far: 23

■ Ground operational — Goal: 10 or less. So far: 15

■ Aviation — Goal: 7. So far: 3

"By far, our greatest challenge is preventing vehicle mishaps both on-duty and off-duty," wrote Hagee.

"At headquarters, we use mishap numbers and rates to gauge our success at mishap reduction," wrote Hagee. "However, this is not just about reducing mishap numbers and rates. It is about leadership and taking care of each other as Marines."

— Jon R. Anderson

The Leave Pledge

Marine:
I, (Rank, Full Name), recognize the contribution I make to my fellow Marines, Sailors and Civilian Marines of (Unit Name), my brothers and sisters throughout the Marine Corps and Marines and Sailors deployed in defense of freedom around the world. Essential to our mission, I pledge to maintain my commitment with a constant display of honor and professionalism.

I will plan ahead, minimize risks to my safety and return from leave prepared to continue "the fight."

(Signature of Marine)

Supervisor:
I, (Rank, Full Name), have confirmed that (the requesting Marine) has an acceptable plan for leave and fully understands the valuable contribution every Marine makes to our nation. I am confident that he/she will take the necessary steps to minimize risks and bring honor to our Corps and country while enjoying this well deserved break from the daily routine. I recommend approval.

(Signature of the first Marine in approval chain)

Source: Marine Corps

Army drops in for pit stop at NASCAR race

TV announcers, pace car arrive in Army copter

By AMANDA L. BOSTON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — NASCAR fans went wild Sunday as Army Special Forces showed off their own expert driving, maneuvering an MH-47 Chinook helicopter onto Atlanta Motor Speedway to drop off the pace car for the Golden Corral 500.

Plans had been in the works for nearly three months for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) out of Fort Campbell, Ky., to make the special delivery during pre-race ceremonies, said racetrack director of events Brandon Hutchinson.

"There is always kind of military involvement — from flyovers to color guard — in pre-race festivities here at Atlanta Motor Speedway," Hutchinson said. "We like fast and loud fly-bys. Anything to get the fans pumped up."

More than 50,000 race fans saw the heavy assault chopper piloted by Green Berets land along the front stretch of the 1.54-mile track to drop off its cargo, the pace car and television analysts Darrell Waltrip and Jeff Ham-



TIM PARKS/Special to Stars and Stripes

Members of the Fort Campbell, Ky.-based 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) direct "NASCAR on Fox" television analysts Darrell Waltrip and Jeff Hammond while they unload the official pace car of the Golden Corral 500 from the back of an MH-47 Chinook helicopter at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday. It was the second consecutive year the military took part in pre-race celebrations in Atlanta.

"Anyone who has had the opportunity to share some time with our military personnel can tell you that we are under the protection of some of the finest men and women in the country," Hammond said in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes.

"I was honored to take part in the exercise and am extremely thankful for all that they sacrifice on our behalf."

Leading the Special Operations demonstration this year was Lt. Gen. Philip R. Kensinger Jr., commanding general of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

Air commanders from the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Navy SEALs from the U.S. Naval Special Warfare Command, San Diego, also were honored during the ceremonies.

"NASCAR races are such a logical place to build community relations," said Kelly A. Tyler, spokesperson for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. "Races are great recruiting events."

In addition to the Chinook helicopter, other aircraft taking part in the event included an MH-60 Black Hawk, an MH-6 Little Bird helicopter and an MC-130 Combat Talon aircraft.

Sunday's demonstration was the second-straight year members of the Army, Navy and Air Force took part in pre-race celebrations at the Atlanta event.

Earlier this year, a Florida sailer who served in Iraq was named honorary starter of NASCAR's Budweiser Shootout at Daytona International Speedway.

E-mail Amanda Boston at: bostona@stripes.osd.mil

IN THE WORLD

EU faces fire over Chinese arms embargo

U.S. hardens opposition to resuming sales as China is angered over possible delay



European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso arrives for a meeting of EPP leaders in Meise, Belgium, on Tuesday. EPP leaders met ahead of an EU summit, which hopes to boost jobs and growth but is set to be overshadowed by a dispute over resuming arms sales to China and growing fears of a 'no' vote on the EU constitution in France.

By PAUL AMES
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Union leaders were under pressure Tuesday to delay plans for resuming weapons sales to China, as Washington hardens opposition to ending the 15-year EU embargo in the wake of Beijing's new law authorizing a military attack on Taiwan.

Gathering for their two-day spring summit, the 25 EU leaders were facing fire from both sides, after China reacted angrily to reports the bloc may put back its target for lifting the embargo beyond the end of June.

The arms embargo against China is political discrimination, which is not in line with today's reality," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said in Beijing ahead of the EU summit.

Europe has long been divided over lifting the ban. France and Germany have led demands for it to go beyond the embargo. Cold War relic that holds back trade op-

portunities with China's booming economy.

But Sweden and others have been more reticent, citing continued human rights abuses and the threat to Taiwan. The United States has lobbied strongly for the ban to stay, saying European weapons could destabilize east Asia and even threaten U.S. forces in the Pacific.

However, the EU had appeared close to lifting the ban before last week's passing of an anti-secession law by the Chinese parliament that authorizes force against Taiwan if the island seeks formal independence.

China has made some concessions on human rights, including the release last week of a Muslim businessman who was jailed on national security charges and was the subject of appeals by Washington.

But Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said continued human rights problems and the new law on Taiwan, had "created quite a difficult political environment" for the lifting of the embargo.

Other European officials have said lifting the embargo could be delayed because of the failure to get agreement within the bloc for a series of safeguards to prevent a sudden, destabilizing flood of European weapons or the export of high-tech arms.

"The latest developments have added complexity," EU spokeswoman Christina Gallach acknowledged ahead of the summit.

The Europeans are also worried about the level of opposition within the United States. Diplomats admitted a mission to Washington last week to explain the proposed new safeguards had not been a success.

European sales of some military equipment have continued under the vaguely worded embargo, imposed in 1989 following the clampdown on democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Some officials argue the proposed safeguards could even provide closer controls on what is sold.

The United States imposed its own arms embargo after the Tiananmen clampdown.

N. Korean premier visits China amid U.S. pressure to resume nuke talks

By JOE McDONALD

The Associated Press

BEIJING — North Korea's visiting premier said Tuesday that Pyongyang might be willing to return to nuclear talks, a Chinese spokesman said, following the North's claim to have expanded its atomic arsenal.

"If conditions are right in the future, North Korea is willing at any time to participate at the six-party talks," Premier Pak Pong Ju told his Chinese counterpart, Wen Jiabao, according to a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The spokesman, Liu Jianchao, did not say what those conditions would be. But the North has demanded in the past that the United States end its "hostile policy" and apologize for having referred to it as an "outpost of tyranny." The North said last month it was boycotting the talks indefinitely.

Pak arrived in Beijing amid appeals by Washington for China's communist leaders to prod their

isolated ally back to the bargaining table and suggestions that Pyongyang might face sanctions if it does not cooperate.

Wen told Pak the six-nation talks were the "only real, pragmatic way to resolve the nuclear issue," according to Liu. The two leaders met at the Great Hall of the People, the seat of China's parliament, in central Beijing.

Pak also was scheduled to meet President Hu Jintao. His trip includes a stop in Shanghai, the country's financial capital. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, visiting Beijing, hinted at sanctions Monday, saying that if talks fail to produce a non-nuclear North Korea, "We'll have to look at other options."

Rice said she appealed for China to use its status as the North's main ally and aid donor to draw Pyongyang back to the talks, which also include South Korea, Japan and Russia.

In Washington, a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the Bush administration

believes Beijing can do more to get North Korea back to the talks.

China is believed to supply the North with up to one-third of its food and one-quarter of its energy. But Beijing insists it has little influence over Kim Jong Il's Stalinist regime and has resisted U.S. appeals to pressure its ally.

Analysts say the North's declaration last month that it has nuclear weapons might prompt China to go beyond the embargo. Cold War relic that holds back trade op-

A North Korean official said last week during a visit to South Africa that it was up to Washington to create the right conditions for new talks.

U.S. and Chinese diplomats met last week in Shanghai with their counterparts from Japan and South Korea to discuss possible steps to get North Korea back to the talks. The North wants aid and a peace treaty with the United States in exchange for a settlement.

Arab leaders say Israel must make concessions

By SALAH NASRAWI

The Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria — Arab leaders said Tuesday that Israel can expect peace and normalized ties with the Arab world if it does not make concessions and give up occupied lands.

The remarks opening a two-day Arab summit marked a clear shift away from a Jordanian proposal that Arab leaders had already rejected. In what would have been a dramatic change in Arabs' peace strategy, Jordan had suggested that Arab League members offer diplomatic ties to Israel before it returns occupied lands.

Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa told the summit that Israel should not expect "the Arabs will make concessions and even normalize without anything real in return."

"This shouldn't be," he said.

"It should be commitment for commitment. Then we can reach a balanced peace and close the issues of the conflict in order to establish relations in

parallel with the withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian state."

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the summit host, said peace must come as an "Arab strategic option." But he said it should be based on Israel returning all lands seized in a 1967 Middle East war.

Only 13 heads of state from the league's 22 members attended the summit. Others stayed away either for health reasons or because of personal disputes with other members, sending lower-level officials in their place.

With a thin agenda, the summit was sidestepping glaring issues that have shaken the Arab world in recent months — increased pressure for democratic reform, new optimism in the peace process, huge demonstrations in Lebanon and the withdrawal of Syrian troops there.

Instead the leaders were paying lip service to Syria's concerns about U.S. pressure and consider reform of the Arab League itself.

Taiwanese legislative panel blocks multibillion dollar U.S. weapons deal

The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — A Taiwanese legislative committee on Tuesday further delayed the passage of a special budget to buy a multibillion dollar U.S. weapons package.

Opposition lawmakers have been holding up the budget for months, saying the submarines,

Patriot missiles and anti-submarine planes cost too much and that the purchase could spark an arms race with China that would bankrupt Taiwan.

The government recently cut the budget to \$15.29 billion but opposition lawmakers said the price still was too high.

Tuesday's talks at a legislative

procedural committee were the first on the weapons deal since a new legislature took office early last month. The opposition maintained a slim majority in last December's legislative elections, quashing chances that approval of the deal would come soon.

The committee — which sets the agenda for full legislative meet-

ings — failed to list the weapons deal on issues to be considered by the legislature at its next meeting.

The government has said Taiwan needs the new weapons because the island's biggest security threat, China, has significantly increased its defense budget in recent years. Officials warn that Beijing's aggressive arms build-

up will tilt the military balance in favor of China.

Taiwan and China split at the end of a civil war in 1949.

However, Beijing regards the self-ruled, democratic island as part of its territory and has repeatedly threatened to invade if Taiwan declares formal independence.

Deadly Afghan floods

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two people were confirmed dead as floodwaters destroyed hundreds of homes in a former Taliban stronghold reseeded, the United Nations said Tuesday, while Afghan officials said several others were missing.

The victims, one adult and one child, died near Deh Rawood in central Uruzgan province, where the Helmand River overflowed its banks on Friday, said U.N. spokesman Martin Battersby. He had no further details.

Torrential rains have fed already-swollen rivers across Afghanistan, causing flooding in several regions. Officials and Afghan media have reported up to 26 deaths in the north and west, though details have been scant.

Prisoners released

WAGAH, Pakistan — More than 500 Afghan prisoners walked to freedom across the main land border between Pakistan and India on Tuesday, days after President Gen. Pervez Musharraf promised their release in an effort to strengthen relations with New Delhi, officials said.

The 564 prisoners, mostly fishermen, were handed over to Indian officials at Wagah, about 15 miles east of Lahore, said Ghulam Mohammed Mohmand, secretary of the home department, which oversees prisons in southern Sindh province.

The prisoners were freed from jails in Karachi, the capital of Sindh province, on Sunday. They had been held between four months and a year for alleged illegal entry into Pakistan.

At Wagah, Balinder Hampal, an Indian Embassy official, told reporters that "this is the first time that prisoners in such a large number have been handed over to us by Pakistan."

"Such steps will certainly help promote the peace process between the two countries," Hampal said.

From The Associated Press

Court convicts Iraqis for terror plot

The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — A military court convicted three Iraqi citizens Tuesday of smuggling rockets and hand grenades into Jordan, in connection with a plot to attack U.S. and Israeli targets in the kingdom.

Only two of the men are in police custody; their 15 year sentence were immediately commuted to 7½ years with hard labor.

They said they would appeal.

The third, Muawiya Muhanna, was sentenced to 15 years in absentia.

The three were charged with crimes including the import and possession of handguns, automatic rifles, hand grenades and rockets. However, the court found insufficient evidence to convict them on a charge of "conspiring

Three guilty of planning attack on U.S., Israeli targets in Jordan

to carry out terrorist attacks" in Jordan — an offense punishable by death.

The men were arrested Oct. 12, 2003, when police stopped their vehicle — carrying concealed weapons — at a roadblock on a highway just west of Amman.

Two of the men, Ahmed Mohammed Ali Ayed, 26, and Lawrence Hamid Rashid Muhanna, 28, have been in police custody since they were arrested.

Authorities charged Lawrence Muhanna — the fugitive's brother — as the chief conspirator and the one who purchased the weapons from Iraq.

The indictment alleged he'd contacted a Jordanian man identi-

fied as Abu-Ali who agreed to the plan of carrying out "military operations against Israeli and American interests on Jordanian land."

The charge sheet said Muhanna's fugitive brother dispatched the weapons to Amman from Maan, 130 miles south of Amman, after smuggling them into the country by truck.

In another hearing later Tuesday, the retrial of 10 militants convicted in a failed terror plot resumed.

The 10 men were facing trial for the fourth time after the court of appeal referred the case back to the military court.

During proceedings into the

trial, which centers on a conspiracy to attack Americans and Israelis in Jordan during the millennium celebrations, the alleged mastermind of the cell shouted threats in the courtroom.

Khader Abu-Hosher, who was sentenced to death in 2000, shouted before the court that insurgents in Iraq would take the revenge against Jordan.

"Our brothers in Iraq are watching what is happening to us here in your prisons, and the judgment day is approaching," the bearded Abu-Hosher shouted from the dock.

The hearing was adjourned until March 28.

Military judges said in their verdict four years ago that the terror conspiracy was hatched as early as 1996, but the final and decisive planning took place in late 1999. Authorities uncovered and killed the plot in November 1999.

Karzai in Pakistan for talks with leaders

U.S. military presses for Taliban reconciliation

BY SADAQAT JAN

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Afghan President Hamid Karzai arrived in Pakistan's capital on Tuesday for talks with its leaders amid U.S. pressure on him to announce a reconciliation program for Taliban militants, officials said.

Karzai was to hold talks later Tuesday with Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf in Rawalpindi, a city near Islamabad on "all issues" of interest to both Pakistan and Afghanistan, an official in Musharraf's office said on condition of anonymity.

The Afghan president was scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Wednesday and also will be guest of honor at a military parade Wednesday for Pakistan's National Day.

American officials and commanders are pressing Karzai to announce the details of a reconciliation drive for the former ruling Taliban, a move which could defuse an insurgency still buying 17,000 U.S. troops near the border and hampering aid efforts.

The U.S. military has said Karzai must work out with Pakistan which top Taliban figures would be excluded from the pro-

gram, but it remains unclear whether any agreement has been reached or if Pakistan is willing to arrest Taliban leaders living there.

Lt. Gen. David Barno, the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, said last week that talks between Karzai and Musharraf would help address the fact that Pakistan has yet to arrest any top Taliban leaders.

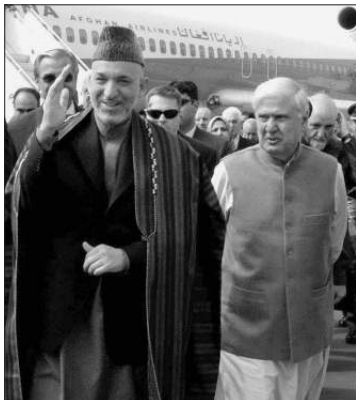
It was unclear whether Karzai would discuss the issue in Islamabad.

His spokesman, Javed Ludin, on Tuesday reiterated Kabul's willingness to pardon Taliban who want to return to their villages, but refused to comment on what would be done with Taliban leaders such as Mullah Omar and his top lieutenants.

"Afghanistan has turned over a new page," Ludin said. "The issue now is reconstruction."

Pakistan was a key supporter of the Taliban militia, which a U.S.-led coalition ousted from power in Afghanistan in late 2001 for harboring terrorists.

Musharraf switched sides and allied Pakistan with the anti-terrorists war after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, and since has sought to set up strong ties with Karzai's U.S.-backed government.



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT:AP

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, left, escorted by Pakistan's Interior Minister Atif Sherpao, waves upon his arrival at Islamabad airport on Tuesday. Karzai was to hold talks with Pakistani leaders amid U.S. pressure to announce a reconciliation program for Taliban militants.

During Karzai's stay in Islamabad, Pakistan and Afghanistan also will sign agreements on tourism and culture, including one establishing bus services between the Pakistani cities of Peshawar and Quetta and the Afghan towns of Jalalabad and Kandahar, the Pakistani Foreign Ministry said.

Meanwhile, anti-narcotics officials from 20 countries meeting in Islamabad to discuss "the challenges presented by drug trafficking from Afghanistan into and through Pakistan" on Tuesday called for greater cooperation between the two countries to fight smuggling.

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Monaco's Rainier in ICU

MONACO — Prince Rainier III of Monaco, who was hospitalized two weeks ago with a chest infection, has been placed in the intensive care unit, the palace said Tuesday.

After a marked improvement, "a recurring pulmonary infection required that the prince be transferred into an intensive care unit," the palace said in a statement.

The 81-year-old Rainier, whose movie-star wife, Grace Kelly, died in a 1952 car crash, has a history of heart problems and has suffered from poor health in recent years.

Monaco is nestled on the Mediterranean Coast between Italy and the French Riviera.

Mob hit in Naples

NAPLES, Italy — The brother of a mob boss who became a state informant was gunned down in a Naples street in what appeared to be an act of vengeance against the informer, police said Tuesday.

Nunzio Giuliano, 57, was shot dead Monday night as he traveled through the southern city on a scooter with his girlfriend, police in Naples said. The woman was slightly injured in the subsequent fall.

The victim's brother, Luigi Giuliano, is a former boss of the Camorra, the Naples crime syndicate. He is in custody and will become a turn of events. On Monday, he testified in a murder trial against other mob members, police said.

35-hour workweek gone

PARIS — French lawmakers effectively abolished the country's 35-hour workweek Tuesday by workweek by allowing employers to increase working hours.

The National Assembly approved a government-backed bill permitting employers to negotiate deals with staff to increase working time by 220 hours a year in return for better pay.

The previous Socialist government introduced the 35-hour workweek as a means of reducing soaring unemployment. The idea was that companies would hire more employees to compensate.

But France still has an unemployment rate of nearly 10 percent, and President Jacques Chirac has criticized the shortened workweek as a "brake" on economic development and job creation.

Deadly illness not Ebola

LUANDA, Angola — Preliminary tests show that an unidentified illness that has killed dozens of people in northern Angola is not Ebola, though the symptoms are similar to the deadly virus, a senior official said.

Deputy Health Minister Jose Van Dunem said late Monday that tests carried out at a laboratory in Dakar, Senegal, had not yet identified the disease but had ruled out the Ebola virus.

The outbreak came along Angola's border with Congo, where Ebola still exists in nature.

The symptoms — including vomiting, bloody discharge and high fever — are similar to those for Ebola and other hemorrhagic fever including dengue fever, according to WHO.

From The Associated Press

U.N.: More than 1 billion lack safe water

Post-tsunami sanitation issues in spotlight as organizations mark World Water Day

BY ERICA BULMAN
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The lack of any major outbreak of disease in areas hit by the Dec. 26 tsunami is largely due to the rapid deployment of clean water and sanitation teams, the international Red Cross said Tuesday.

In a statement marking World Water Day, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said the response provided a dramatic demonstration of the need for clean water.

But the resource is also essential for longer-term chronic shortages in the developing world, the federation and other international organizations said.

The United Nations says more than 1.1 billion people around the world lack safe water and 2.4 billion have no access to sanitation, leading to over 3 million deaths every year.

"People who can turn on a tap and have safe and clean water to drink, to cook with and to bathe in often take it for granted, and yet more than 1 billion of our fellow human beings have little choice but to use potentially harmful sources of water," said Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, head of the World Health Organization.

The Red Cross federation said it had deployed seven emergency response units in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, providing clean water to nearly 500,000 people.

It was its largest deployment of water and

sanitation teams since it set up the emergency response system of its national societies 10 years ago, the federation said.

"After a major catastrophe, populations are particularly vulnerable to waterborne diseases, and our ability to produce large quantities of safe water and provide adequate sanitation quickly has been crucial in ensuring that these communities were not subjected to a second disaster," said Markku Niskala, secretary-general of the federation.

This year's World Water Day marks the launching of the "Water for Life" decade, during which the United Nations and governments are seeking to halve the number of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015.

Ministers and government representatives are scheduled to meet next month at the Commission for Sustainable Development's 13th session in New York to take policy decisions on practical measures to ensure access to water for people worldwide.

"We need to increase water efficiency, especially in agriculture. We need to free women and girls from the daily chore of hauling water, often over great distances," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said.

The plan also aims to safeguard water for the future of the Earth's ecosystems, crucial for protecting and preserving biodiversity in freshwater lakes and rivers, mountain landscapes, wetlands, estuaries, coastal zones and oceans.

An unidentified man collects water Monday from a well in Kano, in northern Nigeria. Millions of people around the world face water shortages especially Third World countries, a point made Tuesday by officials marking World Water Day.



BY SUSANNA LOOF
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Austrian authorities were investigating whether a university committed a crime when it used corpses as part of research to develop better crash-test dummies, a prosecutor said Tuesday.

Horst Sigl, a prosecutor in the southern city of Graz, said authorities suspect that researchers at the Technical University of Graz might have violated the dignity of the dead by using bodies in tests.

"The core of the problem is whether those used in the tests or their relatives gave permission," he said.

The researchers used 21 bodies provided by the Medical University of Graz for tests performed between 1994 and 2003, said Alice Senarclens de Grancy, a spokeswoman for the

Technical University.

Birgit Jauk, a spokeswoman for the Medical University, said that though the university was "confident that all had been done in order" it had launched an internal investigation into the matter.

Anyone convicted in the case could face imprisonment for up to six months or a fine, Sigl said, adding that the preliminary investigation likely would be finished in about a month.

Senarclens de Grancy rejected any suggestion that the dignity of the dead could have been disturbed in the tests, saying they were

"It's not in any way a crash test as you might think about it. There is no car, there is no wall."

Alice Senarclens de Grancy
spokeswoman for
Technical University of Graz

carried out under strict ethical standards.

"It's not in any way a crash test as you might think about it," she said. "There is no car, there is no wall."

During the tests, the bodies were placed in seats that moved with speeds up to 9.3 mph before being stopped in an effort to simulate a rear-end collision. Scientists observed how the bodies' vertebrae, upper bodies and backs moved.

Using real bodies was necessary to develop a "dummy which is very similar to the human body, which reacts as the human body does," Senarclens de Grancy said.

Russia ratifies convention on nuclear liability

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed into law a bill ratifying an international agreement on liability for nuclear damage, obliging the government to compensate victims of any future nuclear accident, the Kremlin said Tuesday.

Russia's two houses of parliament voted this month to ratify the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, which requires a nuclear operator to pay damages for an acci-

dent.

Since all of Russia's nuclear power plants and other atomic facilities are in state hands, the government would be liable.

The issue of liability for nuclear accidents has been a key stumbling block in Moscow's negotiations with the United States and other Western nations that have pledged financial assistance to help secure Russia's nuclear stockpiles, dismantle atomic submarines and build storage for radioactive waste.

But the agreement, which is

not retroactive, will not cover the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the ex-Soviet republic of Ukraine, officials said.

The Soviet Union hasn't paid any compensation for the April 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe — the world's worst commercial nuclear disaster.

About 30 people died from the immediate effects of the explosion, and an estimated 5 million people were exposed to radiation.

Officials and senior lawmakers emphasized that joining the

convention, which requires a nuclear operator to pay at least \$60 million in overall damages for an accident, would protect Russia from possible claims for much larger amounts.

The 1963 Vienna Convention aimed at a worldwide system but so far has attracted a scattered membership of only 32 states.

Two-thirds of the members joined in the last 10 years, including non-nuclear states such as Canada, Peru, Cuba, and Trinidad and Tobago.

IN THE STATES

Schiavo's parents hurry for next appeal

Federal judge denies request to reinsert feeding tube

BY VICKIE CHACHERE
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A federal judge on Tuesday refused to order the reinsertion of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube, denying an emergency request from the brain-damaged woman's parents. The parents' lawyer quickly filed a notice of appeal.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge James Whittemore came after feverish action by President Bush and Congress on legislation allowing the contentious case to be reviewed by federal courts. The judge said the 41-year-old woman's parents had not established a "substantial likelihood of success" at trial on the merits of their arguments.

The notice of appeal was filed electronically hours later with the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta by David Gibbs III, an attorney for Terri Schiavo's parents. The notice tells the court that the full appeal will follow. That court already was considering an appeal on whether Terri Schiavo's right to due process had been violated.

Whittemore wrote that Schiavo's "life and liberty interests" had been protected by Florida courts. Despite "these difficult and time-strained circumstances," he wrote, "this court is constrained to apply the law to the issues before it."

The Bush administration "would have preferred a different ruling," White House press secretary Scott McClellan told reporters in Albuquerque, N.M., where the president was visiting a senior center.

"We hope that they would be able to have relief through the appeals process," McClellan said.

While Rex Sparklin, another attorney for the parents, said the appeal was needed to "save Terri's life," Howard Simon, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Florida, praised the ruling.

"What this judge did is protect the freedom of people to make their own end-of-life decisions without the intrusion of politicians," Simon said.

Bobby Schindler, Terri Schiavo's brother, said his family was crushed. "To have to see my parents go through this is absolutely barbaric," he told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday.



Terri Schiavo supporter Melissa Carl of Tampa, Fla., prays outside the Woodside Hospice Monday in Pinellas Park, Fla.

"I'd love for these judges to sit in a room and see this happening as well."

Scott Schiavo, Michael Schiavo's brother, called the judge's decision "a good thing," and said he did not believe Congress should have intervened.

"There's not a law that's made for this," Scott Schiavo said in a telephone interview. "This is something that goes on 100 times a day in our country, that people, their wish to die with dignity is not a federal issue."

The tube was disconnected Friday on the orders of a state judge, prompting an extraordinary weekend effort by congressional Republicans to push through unprecedented emergency legislation Monday aimed at keeping her alive.

Court-appointed doctors say she is in a persistent vegetative state with no hope of recovery. Doctors have said she could survive one to two weeks without the feeding tube.

'Wakefulness without awareness' deceiving

BY MALCOLM RITTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In the family video played over on her case, Terri Schiavo seems to gaze fondly at her mother, with the hint of a smile.

On Sunday night, as Congress took up debate on her case, her father told reporters that she responded to his teasing by making a face at him. "It tells us she's still with us," he said.

But in Schiavo's condition, described as a persistent vegetative state, family members can be deceived by things like eye movements and reflexes, experts say.

"It creates this ironic combination of wakefulness without awareness," said Dr. James Bernat, a neurology professor at Dartmouth Medical School.

That's because in a persistent vegetative state, the brain centers that control wakefulness are functioning, but those that

permit conscious awareness of oneself or the environment are damaged or destroyed.

As a result, patients close their eyes to sleep and open them when they wake up. If a doctor brushes the eyeball with a wisp of cotton, they may blink. If something gets caught in the throat, they will cough. There may be limited eye movements, though patients can't follow a person walking from one side of the room to another, for example.

That's in contrast to a coma, in which the eyes remain closed and a person is neither aware nor aware of brain details, in which there is no sign at all that the brain is functioning.

Bernat, past chairman of the American Academy of Neurology's Ethics, Law and Humanities Committee, declined to comment specifically on the Schiavo case. He said outward signs of persistent vegetative state can give family members false hope.

Many drafting living wills to spare family heartache

BY ROB STEIN
AND KARIN BRILLIARD
The Washington Post

The Terri Schiavo case has triggered a surge of interest in living wills and other measures that can prevent the kind of bitter battle under way in Florida, experts around the country said Monday.

Organizations that encourage people to take steps to protect their wishes if they become incapacitated have been flooded by phone calls and hits on their Web sites.

"We are getting absolutely slammed here — the calls are coming in left and right," said Paul Malley, president of Aging With Dignity, a national nonprofit group based in Tallahassee. "We've had more than 20 times as many calls today as we usually get. Everyone is saying how heartbreaking the Terri Schiavo case is and how they want to avoid this happening in their own families."

Advocates said the flood of interest could produce one of the few positive outcomes of the painful episode, in which a brain-damaged woman's fate has erupted into a national debate embroiling Congress and the federal courts. "If there is a silver lining to this, it's that people are taking away one valuable lesson, which is the importance of making your wishes known," said Jon Radulovic of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, a nonprofit group based in Alexandria, Va., that was also being

flooded by calls. "People seem to be getting that message."

The case appears to have encouraged many families to broach a topic most usually avoided: What would members want to happen to them if they were in a similar situation?

"This is something that's hard for people to talk about because it forces them to face their own mortality," said Timothy E. Quill, director of the Center for Palliative Care and Clinical Ethics at the University of Rochester in New York. "But whenever you have a case like this, it tends to stop people talking and thinking."

That was the case with Dorothy Cutler, 84, of Newbury Park, Calif., who called Malley's organization after watching some of the debate over the Schiavo case on television.

"If I'm in a vegetative state I don't want to be kept alive by any artificial means," said the retired secretary. "I'm fine now, but who knows what can happen? You can have a stroke or an accident. You never know from one day to the next."

Arlington, Va., lawyer Kelly Thompson said the Schiavo case came up immediately Monday when she was meeting with a couple for routine estate planning and began reviewing documents they would need.

"Before I could even finish the sentence, they said, 'and a medical directive — don't let me be the next Terri Schiavo,'" Thompson said.

Washington Post staff writer Neely Tucker contributed to this report.

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Seven dead in Minn. high school shooting

Alleged teen gunman kills two others, self

BY JOSHUA FREED
The Associated Press

REDDY, Minn. — The suspect in the worst U.S. school shooting since Columbine smiled and waved as he gunned down five students, a teacher and a guard, asking one of his victims whether he believed in God, witnesses said. The teen's grandfather and his grandfather's wife also were found dead, and the boy killed himself.

Reggie Graves, a student at Red Lake High School, said he was watching a movie about Shakespeare in class Monday when he heard the gunman blast his way past the metal detector at the school's entrance, where an unarmed guard was killed.

Then, in a nearby classroom, he heard the gunman say some-

thing to his friend Ryan. "He asked Ryan if he believed in God," Graves said. "And then he shot him."

The death toll at the Red Lake Indian Reservation in far northern Minnesota made it the nation's worst school shooting since the rampage at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., in April 1999 that ended with the deaths of 12 students, a teacher and the two teen gunmen.

The victims included the gunman's grandfather; the grandfather's wife; a school security guard; a teacher; and five other students.

At least 14 others were wounded, and two of them remained in critical condition Tuesday at MeritCare in Fargo, N.D., officials said.

At least three of the victims

were shot in the head at close range, said officials at North Country Regional Hospital in nearby Bemidji. One of those victims died and the other two were transferred to the Fargo hospital. Three victims remained at North Country Regional in noncritical condition.

"There's not a soul that will go untroubled by the tragic loss that we've experienced here," Floyd Jourdain Jr., chairman of the Red Lake Chippewa Tribe, told WCCO-TV of Minneapolis on Tuesday.

Police said the gunman killed himself after exchanging fire with officers. Red Lake Fire Director Roman Stately said the gunman had two handguns and a shotgun.

The shooter was Jeff Weise, a 17-year-old student who had been



Red Lake High School students, from left, Sondra Hegstrom, Maria Hegstrom and Ashley Morrison weep together Monday after a shooting at the school in Red Lake, Minn.

AP

placed in the school's Homebound program for some violation of policy, said school board member Kathryn Beaulieu. Students in that program stay at home and are tutored by a traveling teacher.

Beaulieu said she didn't know what Weise's violation was, and

wouldn't be allowed to reveal it if she did.

There was no immediate indication of Weise's motive. But several students said he held anti-social beliefs, and he may have posted messages on a neo-Nazi Web site expressing admiration for Adolf Hitler.



Samantha Rummion, 5, left, was kidnapped, sexually assaulted and murdered in July 2002. Alejandro Avila, right, is on trial in Orange County, Calif. Prosecutors say the girl's DNA was found in Avila's car.



AP photos

Girl, 9, testifies in case of murdered playmate

BY BEN FOX
The Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — The two friends were playing outside on a summer evening when a man pulled up, approached them with a story about a lost puppy and then whisked away 5-year-old Samantha Rummion.

It was the start of one of the most notorious crimes in recent Southern California history, an abduction and murder that prompted a massive outpouring of grief for a girl whose nude body was soon found in mountains 50 miles away.

Alejandro Avila is charged with kidnapping, sexually assaulting and murdering Samantha Rummion in 2002. He went on trial Monday with a prosecutor saying DNA that may have come from the girl's tears was discovered in the 30-year-old suspect's car, and the defense alleging the evidence was planted.

Samantha's friend Sarah Ahn, 9, was the first witness to take the stand.

"He just picked her up," Sarah testified Monday. "She was screaming ... She was shaking, kicking, trying to get loose."

Her description helped produce a composite sketch that closely resembles Avila, who has been in custody since his arrest three days after Samantha's death. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

Assistant District Attorney David Brent, in opening statements, outlined a prosecution case that includes cell phone and debit card records, scrapings of the suspect's DNA from beneath Samantha's fingernails and genetic material from the 5-year-old found in two places inside the defendant's car.

But defense attorney Philip Zaleski suggested the victim's DNA was planted, and claimed that an earlier search turned up no genetic material linking Avila to the abduction.

An autopsy showed Samantha was sexually assaulted before she suffocated from force applied on her upper chest, Brent said.

Bush takes Social Security plan on road to New Mexico

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — President Bush and Sen. John McCain put on another showing Tuesday of their good-cop, bad-cop routine on Social Security, trying to prod Democrats into cooperating with rather than opposing the president's drive to create private accounts within the system.

Bush emphasized the positive, continuing to assure current and near-retirees their benefits would not change under his plan and promising that credit would be duly shared if Washington politicians can come together to fix Social Security's long-term fiscal ills.

"Bring your ideas forward, please," the president told a mostly darkened auditorium here. "If we're going to solve this problem, it's not going to be a Republican idea or a Democratic idea. It's going to be an American idea."

McCain, after speaking glowingly of "the pride I feel in this president," had a less conciliatory message for Democrats in Congress, whom he accused of being obstructionist and shortsighted.

"Some of our friends who are opposing this idea say, 'Oh, you don't have to worry until 2042.' We wait until 2042 when we stop paying people Social Security? That's not what this is all about," he said.

Blake TV interview

LOS ANGELES — In his first television appearance since being acquitted last week in the killing of his wife, actor Robert Blake said Tuesday he does not know who killed Bonnie Lee Bakley but speculated it could have been "somebody whose father was taken for a ride."

Appearing on ABC's "Good Morning America," Blake was asked by veteran television journalist Barbara Walters, "Do you have any idea who did it?"

Blake paused and said, "She led that kind of life, where she made a lot of enemies and somebody ... somebody whose father was taken for a ride or something like that. I don't know. I don't know."

Walters also asked Blake why he lashed out at a reporter at a news conference following his acquittal Wednesday. The actor told a reporter to "shut up."

"What I meant by 'shut up' is I mean I would like to have everybody stop killing Bonnie now," Blake said. "Everybody is making a buck on Bonnie. It's like, you know, America now is filling their rice bowl any way they can. They're still picking Princess Diana's bones."

Lunsford murder case

LECANTO, Fla. — The man accused of kidnapping, sexually assaulting and killing 9-year-old Jessica Marie Lunsford was denied bond Tuesday on murder and other charges.

John Evander Couey, 46, a convicted sex offender who sheriff's officials say confessed to taking Jessica from her home and killing her, made a first appearance on charges of capital murder, battery, kidnapping and sexual battery on a child under the age of 12.

"This is an infamous case here," Citrus County Judge Mark Yerman told Couey during the brief hearing. "The acts you are accused of and the crimes you confessed to are really beyond words."

Couey was arrested in Georgia last week but brought back to Florida and booked Sunday on a probation violation and failure to register his change of address as required as a sex offender.

From The Associated Press

State honors victims of civil rights slayings

BY SHELLA BYRD
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour signed legislation Monday renaming stretches of highways in honor of victims of two of the nation's most notorious civil rights slayings.

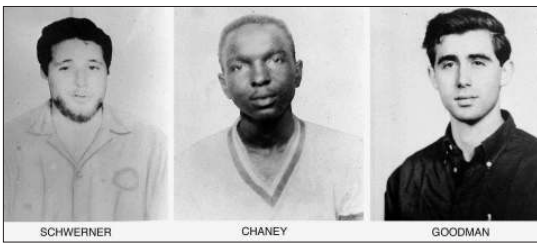
Lawmakers say the highways are the first state-sponsored memorials to the victims.

A portion of U.S. 49 East in Tallahatchie County becomes the "Emmett Till Memorial Highway" in honor of the black 14-year-old who was beaten to death in 1955, supposedly for whistling at a white woman.

That case has recently been reopened by prosecutors.

A stretch of Mississippi 19 near Philadelphia, believed to be the site of the murders of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, was renamed the "Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner Memorial Highway" for the three civil rights workers who were ambushed, beaten and shot by the Ku Klux Klan in 1964.

Nineteen men were indicted on federal civil rights charges in that case. Seven were convicted and



Above: On June 29, 1964, the FBI began distributing these pictures of civil rights workers, from left, Michael Schwerner, 24, of New York, James Chaney, 21, from Mississippi, and Andrew Goodman, 20, of New York, who disappeared days earlier near Philadelphia, Miss. The three civil rights workers were abducted and killed. Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour signed legislation Monday renaming stretches of Mississippi highways for the slain men. Right: Emmett Till, in Chicago about six months before he was killed in 1955 while visiting Mississippi, also received a highway naming in his honor.

sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to 10 years.

Murder charges in the case were not brought until earlier this year when former Klansman, Edgar Ray Killen, one of the original

suspects, was indicted.

He is scheduled for trial this spring.

"This is history in the way of Mississippi trying to change her image," said Democratic state

Sen. David Jordan, who represents the district where Till was killed.

"This is healthy for the state, and the state has got to start looking at it that way."



Black librarian files suit against Harvard

BY DENISE LAVOIE
The Associated Press

BOSTON — A Harvard University librarian claims in a lawsuit that she has been rejected repeatedly for promotion because she is black and is perceived as just a "pretty girl" whose attire was too "sexy."

As a jury was chosen Monday to decide her federal lawsuit, Desiree Goodwin said she's been rejected for 16 jobs at Harvard since 1998, when she completed her master's degree in library science after attending night classes at Simmons College for 4½ years.

Goodwin, 40, also has a master's degree in English literature, seven years of experience in the library of Boston College and another nine years as an assistant librarian at Harvard.

She said she was shocked when, in late 2001, her supervisor told her she would never be promoted at Harvard. In court documents, Goodwin said her supervisor told her she was "a joke" at the university's main library, where she "was seen merely as a pretty girl who wore sexy outfits, low cut blouses, and tight pants."

She said after the conversation with her supervisor, she modified her appearance and wore more conservative clothing, but she continued to be turned down when she applied for better positions.

Goodwin says in her lawsuit that she has suffered emotional distress and lost \$150,000 in wages as a result of Harvard's failure to promote her since 1999.

Harvard denies that it has discriminated against Goodwin.



Desiree Goodwin, an assistant librarian at Harvard University, claims in a lawsuit that the university has been discriminating against her because she's black and perceived as a "pretty girl" whose attire is "too sexy." A jury was selected Monday in Boston to decide the case.

Chris Griffin, 31, poses beside the wild hog he shot near Alapaha, Ga., in June 2004. Residents of this south Georgia town felt vindicated Monday after a National Geographic documentary confirmed that their legendary super swine Hogzilla was indeed real, and really, really big.



Legend of super swine airs

BY ELLIOTT MINOR
The Associated Press

ALAPAHA, Ga. — A team of National Geographic experts has confirmed south Georgia's monster hog, known to locals as Hogzilla, was indeed real — and really, really big.

They also noted the super swine didn't quite live up to the 1,000-pound, 12-foot hype generated when Hogzilla was caught on a farm last summer and photographed hanging from a backhoe.

Donning biohazard suits to exhume the behemoth's smelly remains, the experts estimated Hogzilla was probably only 7½ to 8 feet long, and weighed about 800 pounds. The confirmation came in a documentary aired Sunday

night on the National Geographic Channel; it will be rebroadcast Wednesday and Saturday.

"He was an impressive beast. He was definitely a freak of nature," said documentary producer Nancy Donnelly. She said Hogzilla's tusks — one measuring nearly 16 inches and the other nearly 18 inches — set a new Safari Club International North American free-range record.

That wasn't good enough for Ken Holyoak, owner of the 1,500-acre fish farm and hunting preserve where Hogzilla was shot by guide Chris Griffin.

Holyoak said Hogzilla weighed in at half a ton on his farm scales, and that he personally measured the hog's length at 12 feet while the freshly killed beast was dangling by straps from a backhoe.

Calif. distiller in tussle over name

BY DAISY NGUYEN
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A dispute is brewing between a Mexican tequila trade group and a Southern California distiller who wants to sell his American-made agave liquor under the name "Tequila."

The Mexican Tequila Regulatory Council says J.B. Wagoner's "Tequila" brand sounds similar to tequila and may fool consumers into thinking it's the Mexican-made liquor. International trade laws forbid use of the name tequila unless it's made from blue

agave in designated regions of Mexico.

"He's free to produce an agave distillate, but he cannot call it anything that resembles 'tequila,'" said Judith Meza, a representative for the council. Just as clauses in the North American Free Trade Agreement protect the name tequila, she said, other parts of the agreement bar Mexican manufacturers from using U.S. names such as bourbon and Tennessee whiskey.

The Guadalajara-based group has sent a letter urging Wagoner to change the name, Meza said,

and will consider litigation if he "doesn't find a friendly solution to the case."

Meanwhile, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau has rejected Wagoner's application for a labeling certificate. The bureau is a division of the U.S. Department of Treasury which vets the production, labeling and marketing of alcoholic beverages.

Wagoner said he called his 100-proof concoction "Tequila" as a play on the name of his hometown, Temecula. While awaiting a decision on his appeal, Wagoner said he plans to start selling next month as scheduled.



OPINION

U.S. view on torture brings up old wounds

BY JANET SCHMIDT ZUPAN

I recently found a letter written by my mother just after my dad left for his final tour in Vietnam. "It's been hectic," she began. "Norm's afraid he won't get things done. He tried to fix up the whole house and the corral before he left. I wanted him to forget it but he had to keep working.... He's had a severe headache which has him worried.... It broke my heart to see him climb into that airplane."

I remember that summer—July, Mojave Desert, my sisters and I complaining as we shoveled horse manure into a creaky wheelbarrow, my dad tamping creosote posts plumb in an afternoon wind. I remember touching his shoulder where he knelt to set a tile in his beautiful floor, trowel in hand, the musty odor of concrete and Spanish brick in the air. I recall us all sitting around the table, Dad blowing out the candles of his 40th birthday cake, and the deep silence beyond the tear of wrapping paper and clipped ribbons. I was 11. On the tarmac of George Air Force Base, I breathed in the smell of his flight suit when he hugged me for the last time.

On Sept. 1, 1966, his F-104 was hit by flak during a mission, and the plane went down. My dad bailed out, drifting toward his last 364 living days, days that separated him so utterly from his life as a son, husband, father and career test pilot. In his final moments he was deemed a "war criminal," beyond our desperate love and worry, beyond the protection of the country he served, and excluded from the regard for human safety, dignity and life inherent in the articles of the Geneva Conventions.

In an audiotape in 1974, Cmdr. Robert

Shumaker shared recollections of my dad. They were in a nine-foot-square cell with two other POWs in the Little Vegas section of the Hanoi Hilton in the summer of 1967. It was a harrowing period for the prisoners, in the wake of a communications purge. Shumaker described an incident on Aug. 21: "After Norm had finished washing he was peeking out [a] crack and trying to get a look at some of the other prisoners. Wouldn't you know it, a guard caught him." For this offense, my dad's legs were locked in stocks attached to his bed. Ten days passed before guards released him from this confinement and took him away for interrogation. He was never seen again. Shumaker concluded that "(Norm) was subjected to torture and succumbed in the process." Other prisoners, in cells down the hall from the interrogation room, reported hearing the "sounds of torture... a loud scuffle and then silence." My father's remains were disinterred from the Ba Huyen Cemetery in Hanoi in 1974 and returned to us.

These days, the unspeakable aspects of my father's death have receded back into focus through the most shocking of sources: Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and Afghanistan. Some many of us trusted in unwavering U.S. adherence to the principles of the Geneva Conventions? We committed to the accord, in good part, as a way of securing the protection of our own soldiers. Yet recent, mounting evidence reveals that the United States has been engaging in abhorrent interrogation methods sanctioned from the executive branch down.

Someone tell me, please, what marks the difference between the fatal techniques used against my father, Col. Norman

THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE



Schmidt — labeled "war criminal" — and those used on "enemy combatant" Mamad al-Jamadi, whose death in custody in Baghdad has been classified as a homicide?

What makes one instance an internationally recognized, heinous crime and the other an increasingly condoned practice, something we're supposed to believe is unfortunate but necessary? I cannot find the answer.

But I know that we owe it to our soldiers to treat prisoners of war and conflict hu-

manely, no matter the circumstances that led to their incarceration, no matter the label they are given. Our national hesitation and then silence, our lack of outcry for an independent, thorough investigation into illegal detentions and torture, leave me grieving once again, deeper now for what seems the futility and waste in my father's honorable service and ultimate sacrifice in the name of the highest ideals of freedom and decency.

Janet Schmidt Zupan is a college instructor in Montana. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Loner terrorists operate with hate under the radar

BY BRIAN LEVIN

When high-profile acts of seemingly symbolic violence occur, like the tragic murders of U.S. District Judge Joan Lefkowitz's husband and mother in Chicago, we often look for large conspiracies with deep political meanings. Many times, however, the apparent terrorist is something less than is believed — a loner with a deeply personal motivation or severe psychological impairment.

Because their rationales revolve around personal revenge or a specific sought-after benefit, these terror-producing offenders are often most elusive and unpredictable. That many of them are also deeply troubled and frustrated people who possess contempt for the institutions of society only enhances their capacity for violence.

While political and religious-based terror movements operate over time with much publicity, the vengeful, impaired or benefit-seeking offender's motives are typically unraveled only in hindsight. That appears to be the case in the Lefkowitz homicides, where a man's personal legal defeat in a medical malpractice case may have caused him to lash out.

There are various categories of people who undertake terrorist acts — that is those who target institutional symbols or random citizens to bring attention to a perceived injustice or reformist agenda. However, an examination of history reveals that some of the nation's worst "terrorist" killers, assassins and bombers were often frustrated people coping with vengeance, mental illness or a compulsion for riches.

Not surprisingly, most violence and threats against judges revolve around re-

venge for their rulings. Hundreds of threats against some of the more than 2,000 federal judges and court employees have resulted in 12 being provided with round-the-clock protection. In 1988, the father of a defeated pro se plaintiff in a sexual harassment case murdered Judge Richard Daronco. A sniper murdered federal District Judge John Wood in 1979 for presiding over a drug case. Judge Patrick Kelley faced a barrage of threats in 1991 after ruling against anti-abortion protesters. Later in the 1990s anti-government extremists set up their own "common law courts" and threatened judges who usurped their "sovereign" authority.

Judges aren't the only symbolic targets of disgruntled, unstable loners bent on violence.

George Metesky, the legally insane "mad bomber" who terrorized New York

in the 1940s and '50s, had a signature motto for "fair play." A disgruntled lawyer who failed to get appointed to a counterposition assassinated President Garfield in 1881. A mentally ill John Hinckley Jr. attempted to kill President Reagan in 1981. Dan White killed San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk for damaging his political career.

Another motive behind these loner attacks is personal gain. Two product-tampering cases involving poisoned over-the-counter headache remedies spread fear across the nation, but were committed by spouses who wanted to be free of their partners. The Washington, D.C., sniper case is another instance where the offender attacked numerous people as a possible cover to target a spouse.

But perhaps the worst example of the benefit-seeking terrorist is John Graham.

In 1955 Graham, who desired to collect on his mother's insurance policy, bombed a United Airlines plane in flight over Colorado, killing 44 people.

The unfortunate lesson of these cases is that those blinded by defect, seeking benefits, or aiming for revenge can wreak the kind of violent disrespect for society and concomitant harm that we usually consider the domain of traditional ideologically motivated terrorists.

While the relative anonymity of judges in the pre-Internet age has traditionally offered a degree of security, their work makes them targets not only as symbols of justice, but because of their tangible authority over the lives of some who are very violent and unstable.

Brian Levin is an associate professor of criminal justice at California State University, San Bernardino, where he directs the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism. He's also the co-author of an upcoming book about terrorism against U.S. interests.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Casino cleared

NV LAS VEGAS — Harrah's Laughlin hotel-casino cannot be held responsible for the death of a motorcycle gang member during an April 2002 melee between the Mongols and the Hells Angels, a federal jury decided.

The widow of Anthony Barreras, 43, a member of the Mongols, had claimed Harrah's knew weeks before the annual Laughlin River Run of the potential for violence and failed to increase security. In all, two people were killed and 12 hospitalized.

Mayor, 22, to run again

PA MOUNT CARBON — The mayor of a tiny Schuylkill County borough whose election victory at age 18 sparked nationwide interest is seeking a second term.

"I'm doing it," Jeffrey Dunkel said. "I wasn't going to, but I'm doing it."

Dunkel's election victory in 2001 — he ran an upset in the general election and won with 43 votes — garnered widespread interest, and he appeared on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" and the "Today" show.

Now 22, the Democrat also will run for a seat on borough council in the community of 100 residents.

"If I get knocked off [as mayor], I'll still have something to fall back on, so I can stay involved with the borough," said Dunkel, who is working as a landscaper and learning to become an electrician.

Hawaiian dairy closing?

HI HONOLULU — The state's largest dairy farm is considering closing because of high transportation, feed and other costs.

The possible closure of Pacific Dairy could reduce local milk supplies by more than 20 percent on top of years of steady decline.

The 10-year-old company, which has about 1,200 milk cows on 42 acres in Waiānana, is already thinning its herd by sending newborn calves to the mainland.

"We'd like to stay [but] we're looking at options," said Robie Ann Dorwelle, the dairy's administrative manager. "It's tough, very tough."

Pacific Dairy, which employs 22 people, is the latest dairy to consider closing. Dairy farms, which receive only about one-third of the retail price of milk, are facing rising shipping and land costs, urban encroachment, environmental regulations and stagnant sales.

The mainland milk is usually about one week older than locally produced milk.

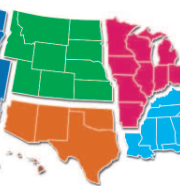
The state is now trying to promote Hawaii milk by raising local milk awareness and interest through advertising.

Boy testifies in assault

NH LACONIA — A 13-year-old boy told jurors an evening that was supposed to be spent baking muffins turned violent when his mother and stepfather attacked his 10-year-old brother.

The boy testified that his stepfather, Steven Weiner, 44, of Belmont, beat down his brother while his mother put a steak knife to the younger brother's arm last September.

Weiner has pleaded not guilty.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

The children's mother, Jacqueline Weiner, will be tried separately on charges she abused both children.

The older boy testified that he and his brother were in the yard when Steven Weiner picked up the younger child by the arm and leg and took him into the house "crying and screaming."

The boy said he and his brother were sent to their rooms upstairs, then heard their parents fighting. The couple then called the boys back down and hit the older boy in the head before sending him back to his room, the 13-year-old said.

From his room, he said, he heard kicking and punching. He also said he was called back down several times, including one time when his brother was face-down on the floor. The older boy said his parents wanted him to berate his brother.

When the boy later returned and saw his mother holding the knife to his brother, he said he grabbed a cordless phone and ran to a neighbor's yard, where he hid behind a fence and called 911.

He's a cheap date

LA LA PORTE CITY — Stu Hemesath has earned \$29.95 — as a prom date.

The high school senior from La Porte City auctioned himself off as a date on the Internet auction site eBay. He will accompany Rachel Kay, 17, to her Cedar Falls prom.

The two say they have never met.

Hemesath said the idea just



Hello, Dali

Robert Miller finishes placing a likeness of Salvador Dali on the front steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The museum is hosting an exhibit of the surrealist's works through May 16, and is the only U.S. venue to house the exhibit.

came to him as he was "thinking about proms and stuff."

"I came to school with a thought in my head, and I told my friends," he said. "They thought it was the coolest thing in the world, so I decided to go for it."

Hemesath wasn't shy about his description, saying he's 5 feet 10 inches tall, 150 pounds, popular and a wrestler. He added: "I have a lot of girls telling me I'm pretty hot."

Kay said she made her bid in an attempt to make an ex-boyfriend jealous.

"I didn't think I'd actually win, I was just playing around," she said. "He looks like a pretty nice guy. I thought his write-up was pretty funny. He says he's a wrestler, so that's good."

Nazi show stays on

VT BURLINGTON — John Long will be able to continue broadcasting a cable television show that glorifies Nazis, insults blacks and homosexuals and has shown videos of the beheadings of hostages in Iraq. The board of the Community Access cable channel says Long's show is ugly and confrontational, but the Vermont Community Access Media's mission is to support "unfettered free speech."

Embezzlement charges

KY BOWLING GREEN — Bowling Green's chief financial officer was arrested by the FBI and charged with embezzlement in an alleged scheme blamed for skimming millions of dollars in city funds. Davis Cooper was hired as city treasurer in 1980 and was promoted to chief financial officer in 2002.

No Native American Day

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — The Legislature effectively killed a bill that would set aside the second Monday in October as Native American Day. Oklahoma is home to 39 tribes. In the 2000 census, 254,810 Oklahomans identified themselves as one-race Indians. Only California has more Indian residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Zippy the fugitive

MA MIDDLEBORO — Zippy the pit bull is on the run.

At least, that's according to animal control officers who must find the dog and its owner, Austin Zipp, after a judge ordered the animal destroyed after months of legal wrangling, dog-nappings and other intrigue. The Enterprise of Brockton reported.

On May 4, Zippy attacked Middleboro Animal Control Officer William Wyatt as he was writing out a leash law citation. Wyatt had spotted Zippy and another dog running loose outside Zipp's used car dealership, and was bitten as he was writing the ticket.

Both dogs were taken to the shelter and quarantined. Three weeks later, selectmen approved Wyatt's recommendation that the dog be destroyed. Zipp appealed, claiming the dog would never bite anyone.

"I hope to God the dog is either surrendered or taken in before it hurts someone else," Wyatt said.



Poppy-lar march

Participants in the Bataan Memorial Death March walk past Mexican poppies at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The event commemorated a forced prisoner-of-war march in the Philippines during World War II.



Battle memories

Union re-enactors fight for Morris Farm at the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site in Four Oaks, N.C. The activities marked the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Bentonville, the largest Civil War battle fought in North Carolina.



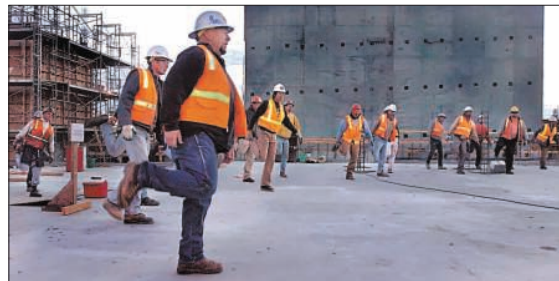
Passion re-enactment
Members of the Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, with Juan de Dios Garcia as Jesus, re-enact the Passion of Christ during a Palm Sunday Mass at the site of their soon-to-be-built church in Las Vegas.



Slick wedding
Newly married Jan Barrick and John Noble of Manlius, N.Y., are greeted by well-wishers at Toggenburg Ski Center in Fabius, N.Y.



Sub cruise
The USS Augusta cruises along the Thames River from the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Conn., bound for sea on deployment.



Flexible work
Workers with the Skanska construction company do stretching exercises before work at the Medford, Ore., Evergreen Way construction site. The warm ups, called flexible solutions, are part of a companywide program.

Historic district OK'd

PA READING — The state's Historical Preservation Board has approved Reading's first national historic district.

The Queen Anne district, which encompasses about 50 square blocks in northwest Reading, was deemed an example of a largely intact working- and middle-class neighborhood built mostly in the late 19th and early 20th century.

About half its homes are in the Queen Anne style of Victorian architecture marked by wraparound porches, ornate woodwork, towers, open-beam ceilings and stained-glass windows and transoms.

Any Woldt-Johnson, the city's historic-preservation specialist, said 93 percent of the 2,583 buildings in the district are architecturally significant, meaning they were built in a recognized style that has stayed intact.

No state homeland cash

AL MONTGOMERY — Two years after Alabama became the first state in the country to establish a separate homeland security department, the House approved a budget that strips state funding from the agency. Homeland Security Director Jim Walker said the loss of funding could make it difficult to continue as a separate agency. The agency receives most of its money from federal grants.

A relatively small appropriation from the state covers mostly administrative costs.

Boy shot, killed at party

TX DALLAS — A North Texas high school football player was shot to death after a man opened fire at a party, police said.

Dallas Lincoln sophomore Pat Hill was shot and killed in Arlington when a man who was not invited to the party began firing indiscriminately moments after he was asked to leave, police said.

Hill, 16, was the backup free safety on last season's Class 4A Division II state finalist football team. He played mostly on special teams last season, but the team's coaches said they expected he would start next season and could someday play in college.

"I just can't believe this. He was like my little brother," said Courtney Herndon, a starter in the defensive secondary who was Hill's mentor last season. "It just hurts to see that he's gone."

Hill was shot once in the chest.

Remote fire challenging

MA HINSDALE — Firefighters used their wits — and some snow — to battle a fire in a remote cabin.

About a dozen Hinsdale firefighters trekked three-quarters of a mile to the burning, one-story seasonal camp on Bullard's Crossing Road.

Since the road was not plowed, fire trucks and other vehicles could not reach the scene, and the firefighters had to carry their equipment — including five-gallon water cans on their backs — to reach the cottage.

They shoveled snow through a bedroom window and pumped water from the cans that usually

are used for brush fires to knock down the cabin's flames. Firefighters were at the scene for more than three hours.

Fire Chief Larry Turner said it was the first time his people ever had to use snow to put out a blaze.

The fire, which Turner labeled suspicious, burned out a room in the cabin.

Witness to beatification

HI HONOLULU — Seventeen nuns of the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse will travel from Hawaii to Rome in May for the Catholic Church's beatification of Mother Marianne Cope.

The nuns will join other Hawaii residents for the May 15 ceremony in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican when Pope John Paul II will declare her "Blessed" Marianne Cope. The group will include some patients from the Kalaupapa Settlement on Molokai.

Cope was born in 1838 in Germany as Barbara Koob. She arrived in the United States two years later, settling with her family in Utica, N.Y. She took her religious vows in 1863 with the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis.

She helped establish St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Utica in 1866, and three years later helped form Syracuse's first hospital, now St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center.

Mother Marianne arrived in Hawaii in 1883 to help Hansen's Disease patients at Kalaupapa. She died there in 1918.

She is the first woman with Hawaii ties to be on the path of sainthood in the Catholic Church.

Budget exceeds cap

CT HARTFORD — Gov. M. Jodi Rell's two-year budget plan exceeds a state spending cap that was enacted in 1991 to curb spending after lawmakers passed a controversial state income tax.

Rell wants to break the cap to help struggling nursing homes. Some Democrats see the proposal as a sign they should rethink the cap, which more than 80 percent of voters approved in 1992.

Nailing down a contract

MI GRAND RAPIDS — Members of the city's largest union, who have been working without a contract for more than two years, overwhelmingly approved a new labor agreement, union officials said. The contract included a retroactive raise of 2 percent for 2004 and 3 percent raises for 2005 and 2006. The contract covers 700 workers, according to Philip Pakielia, president of the Grand Rapids Employees Independent Union.

Avoiding union dues

WA OLYMPIA — State workers in 10 bargaining units have filed petitions to leave their unions before their new contracts take effect. A law allowed state workers unions to negotiate pay for the first time last fall. Most unions agreed to contracts that included the first general pay raise since 2001. The agreements also require workers covered to pay dues or representation fees.

Some workers claim they were blindsided by the fees.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Living to a new beat



M.I.A., the 27-year-old daughter of a Sri Lankan rebel, is giving world music a makeover with an exotic hip-hop/electronic hybrid that blends a youth spent on the run from authorities with the urban eclecticism she found upon moving to London as a refugee.

Rapper uses chaotic life for debut album

BY SUSAN CARPENTER

Los Angeles Times

It's hard to say which is more interesting: M.I.A.'s background or her music. Beginning as a youth on the run from authorities, continuing as a teen refugee in London and now as an artist with what is likely to be one of the most written-about albums of 2005, the 27-year-old daughter of a Sri Lankan rebel has lived a tragic yet extraordinary life.

Already, M.I.A.'s electro-Bollywood-hip-hop has generated gargantuan interest among pop taste-makers, all of it based on a single song, "Galang," named one of last year's 10 best singles in Rolling Stone's critics' poll, is an intensely rhythmic culture clash that draws heavily on American gangsta rap and Hindi film, Jamaican dancehall, Europop and multi-cultural gibberish.

M.I.A.'s debut album, "Arular," out April 25 from XL Recordings, is a more in-depth exploration of the singer's refugee eclecticism.

Vacillating between attitude and innocence, her songs are tough-talking raps, but they're softened by a Hindi vocal style that ends lines of lyrics with curlicue upswings.

M.I.A.'s sold-out performance at the Knitting Factory Hollywood was equally iconoclastic. Waving her hands and self-consciously pacing the stage before a DJ and swirling lights, she was half hip-hop bravado and half "how did I get here?"

"It kind of shocked me that there were so many people that knew the songs," M.I.A. said the next day. "My album's not out."

Born Maya Arulpragasam in London, she moved to Sri Lanka with her family when she was 6 months old. It was 1978, and tensions between the country's two ethnic groups were growing. M.I.A. and her family were Tamil in a country dominated by Sinhalese; her father was part of a militant group seeking independence.

Rebel activities kept her father separated from the family and her family on the run for the next decade. When civil war broke out, they relocated to India.

"It kind of shocked me that there were so many people that knew the songs. My album's not out."

M.I.A.

Sri Lankan rapper

With her family close to starvation, an uncle helped move M.I.A.'s family back to Sri Lanka. In their native country, they at least had a support system, even if the war was in full swing.

Several failed attempts to flee the country ended with M.I.A. and her family being sent to India, then London. Her father stayed behind.

M.I.A. was 10 when her family settled in a housing project in London. Until then, her only contact with music was Bollywood films, television theme songs and bootleg tapes of Michael Jackson and Boney M. In England, she had a radio and a lot of cultural catching up to do. Madonna and Bananarama were her guides.

In 1988, rap still held a sort of outsider appeal that immediately connected with the young South Asian transplant. M.I.A. didn't understand English, but she connected with the rhythm and look of Public Enemy, N.W.A. M.I.A. never intended to be a rapper, or even a musician. She wanted to be an artist. As a student at St. Martin's Art School in London, she began exploring film. But when an art gallery asked her to contribute work to a

show, she branched out to painting. It was her paintings that brought M.I.A. into contact with Justine Frischmann, former leader of the rock band Elastica, who commissioned her to create the cover art for its 2000 album, "Menace." Frischmann also asked M.I.A. to accompany the group on its U.S. tour, videotaping their shows.

Electro pioneer Peaches was touring with the band and encouraged M.I.A. to begin experimenting with the primitive sequencing machine that had become her stock in trade — a Roland MC-505.

She predicted M.I.A. would be singing along to the beats she was building one year later, but M.I.A. resisted. Tone deaf and lacking the self-confidence to front her own band, she recruited four singers for the job.

"I thought that I did what I did because I couldn't sing — that when other people did it, they were going to do it better, but my stuff had a certain thing to it. They couldn't even understand what I was doing."

Pat O'Brien checks into rehab

Television host Pat O'Brien, anchor of "The Insider" news magazine show, has entered an alcohol rehabilitation program, he said in a written statement Sunday.

"I have had a problem with alcohol. I have decided to take action by checking myself into an intensive recovery program," the 57-year-old broadcast journalist said.

There were no details about the recovery facility or when O'Brien entered the program.

O'Brien also covered the Summer Olympics in Greece for MSNBC and NBC late-night programming.

The show's New York host, Lara Spencer, will take over during O'Brien's absence.

Celebrities can't avoid slime

With top stars including Frankie Muniz, Lil Romeo and Hilary Duff lined up to present this year's Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards, there could be a serious shortage of green slime at the April 2 show.

It has become a tradition that one or more celebrities



Duff

berlke, Jada Pinkett-Smith, Jimmy Fallon, Will Ferrell and Amber Tamblyn.

"I think I'm going to be bringing a change of clothes," said the show's host, Ben Stiller.

Rapper/actor Will Smith and the punk-punk quintet Simple Plan are among the musicians scheduled to perform during the show, which will be broadcast live on the Nickelodeon cable television network.

are surprised during the program by being doused with green slime, the trademark booby-prize of Nickelodeon's audience-participation shows. Last year, the Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen got the honor.

Other Hollywood A listers who have signed up as program presenters include Chris Rock, Halle Berry, Cameron Diaz, Justin Tim-



Muniz

Lynch pursues dream teaching job

Former POW Jessica Lynch plans to pursue her dream of becoming a kindergarten teacher.

The 21-year-old Army supply clerk, whose wounding and rescue made her one of the Iraq war's most famous soldiers, said Friday that she plans to start online courses at West Virginia University this fall.

Former Gov. Bob Wise had promised Lynch the state would finance her education at any public college or university in West Virginia.

Lynch is busy traveling and making several speeches a month about her experience as a POW. On Friday, she posed for photographs during a women's luncheon in Morgantown.

In 2003, her 507th Army Maintenance Company convoy took a wrong turn in the Iraqi town of Nasiriyah and was attacked. Eleven American soldiers were killed and six, including Lynch, were captured.



Lynch

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

YOUR MONEY

Quarantined files do harm

Q. I have somehow infected my computer with the virus "VBS.Redlof.A" and cannot get rid of it. Symantec has it quarantined but cannot remove it. I have Zone Alarm, Ad-Aware and Spybot and they cannot remove it either.

A. Any questions? — Carol Oppenheim, Chicago

A. Don't worry too much about those "quarantined" files in Symantec's heavily used Norton AntiVirus software. When the program scans a drive and finds viruses, worms, keyboard loggers and other nasty programs, Norton displays a message that the files have been quarantined.

They are quarantined rather than just destroyed because in some cases a file deemed dangerous is in fact needed, or if not really needed in that fashion, by some poor souls willing to be tracked everywhere they go online or submit to other internet indignities.

There are programs, mostly shareware posted on the Web, that perform some desired service for "free," but the user must accept some form of ads or spyware in return. If the spying programs are deleted the desired software will no longer work. So some folks actually want to be infected.

The files quarantined actually are copied to a folder called Quarantine so they can be restored if desired. Right-click on Start and select the Explore option. This brings up Windows' file management software, which displays the names of folders in a pane on the left and then displays the contents of selected folders in a pane to the right.

Point to the folder called C:\Program Files\Norton AntiVirus\Quarantine. You will find that VBS file there but, again, it cannot do harm.

I'd speculate that your problem stems from the fact that items put in quarantine get temporary new names, so that they cannot be found by other virus attacks. Sometimes when software like the Reports module in Norton is written that is supposed to display files quarantined on the computer, the file will be given a wrong name. Then when a user tries to delete it using the software's display, nothing happens.

However, by going directly to the actual file in the Quarantine folder, you can be assured that it

will be destroyed.

Q. The screen on my monitor is usually a tranquil shade of jade green. Lately it has changed to a very vivid indigo blue. How do I restore it? — Edith Carter, Va. I'll bet you thought this was a simple question, eh, Ms. C? That is so not the case.

A. The answer you need is like the axiom, ask what the time is and then being told how to build a watch.

Volume has been written on the impact that different desktop screen colors have on human psychology, just as colors of boxes in the grocery store affect buying habits. People with MBAs make careers out of coordinating colors to manipulate the actions of customers and employees alike. And a lot of them say it all boils down to the "savannah theory," which holds that human psychology is affected by the colors surrounding our ancestors on the broad plains of Africa.

The reason you find that screaming indigo screen unpleasant is that it adds red to the color of the blue sky, something that hints of grass fires on the savannah. So sky blue is comforting and fire red is jarring. Yellow makes us want to work because it recalls arising refreshed at dawn or relaxing in the beauty of a sunset.

Here's the nitty-gritty: To change that desktop color to your old jade green or some other hue, place your mouse cursor over the desktop; give it a right-click and pick Properties. Open the tab for Desktop in the next display. Now look for the Color box. Click the tiny downward pointing arrow next to Color and you get a display of a few colors picked by Microsoft for desktop screens.

If you click on the customize button you get a display that lets you move the mouse to mix hues and create millions of possible colors.

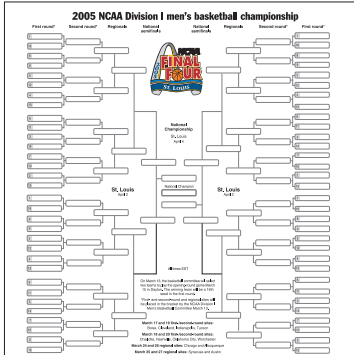
You now have both instructions for how to do it and an interesting guideline of what colors you might want to pick for that new look on the world known as our computer monitors.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at jcoates@tribune.com or via mail at Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan St., Chicago, Ill. 60610. Your question will appear in this column. Add your point of view at chicago@tribune.com or askjim.

Ask Jim



Jim Coates



Workplace pools skirt the odds

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Odds are one in three that somebody in your office is taking bets on the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Never mind that gambling is illegal in most states, or that most office pools operate on company computers.

Even in today's zero-tolerance era for ethics lapses, wagering during March Madness is a big part of office life.

Competition, suspense and college loyalties in a sports-obsessed culture combine to make the tournament a major event in offices where it's common for employees to bet on everything from the Super Bowl to when a co-worker's baby will be born.

Many view participating in NCAA pools more as a team-building exercise than any moral hazard. Some bosses not only look the other way, they join in the action.

"It's a chance for people to communicate and razz each other," said Peter Krivkovsky, president and chief executive officer of Chicago-based advertising agency Cramer-Krasselt, who paid \$1 for a bracket in his agency's decidedly low-stakes pool among offices in five cities.

Office betting is widespread, despite such rare cautionary tales as the scandal that swept Chicago's biggest bank in the early 1990s, toppling chief executive Barry Sullivan. A sports fanatic, he was booted from the former First National Bank of Chicago partly because of an illegal \$64,000 basketball pool for top executives.

Law enforcement officials said they don't usually prosecute the office action.

"Our main concern is gambling that is wrapped in with other problems like organized crime, public corruption, drugs," said an FBI spokesman.

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

52-week Low			
High	Low	Names	Last
18,834.49	17,616.40	Dow Jones Industrials	18,550.39
3,809.87	2,743.46	Howe Jones Transportation	3,740.47
353.82	259.08	Dow Jones Utilities	358.91
6,211.13	4,954.00	NASDAQ Composite	6,276.20
1,539.14	1,158.74	Amex Index	1,470.99
2,513.46	2,562.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,607.21
1,229.11	1,069.72	S&P 500	1,183.78
548.31	548.29	S&P 500	548.31
656.11	515.99	Russell 2000	621.57
12,189.93	10,268.52	DJ Wilshire 2000	11,683.62

NYSE			
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Name	Vol	Name	Vol
NewsCorp	35,625	SPR	60,883
General	35,614	SPR	60,883
NewsCorp	35,614	SPR	60,883
NewsCorp	35,614	SPR	60,883
NewsCorp	35,614	SPR	60,883
NewsCorp	35,614	SPR	60,883
NewsCorp	35,614	SPR	60,883
NewsCorp	35,614	SPR	60,883
NewsCorp	35,614	SPR	60,883
NewsCorp	35,614	SPR	60,883

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS			
Name	Vol	Price	Change
Adiant Technologies	17	12.07	-.88
Adiant Technologies	17	12.07	-.88
Adiant Technologies	17	12.07	-.88
Adiant Technologies	17	12.07	-.88
Adiant Technologies	17	12.07	-.88
Adiant Technologies	17	12.07	-.88
Adiant Technologies	17	12.07	-.88
Adiant Technologies	17	12.07	-.88
Adiant Technologies	17	12.07	-.88
Adiant Technologies	17	12.07	-.88

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS			
Name	NAV	Change	YTD
Fidelity Invest-Govt	92.38	-.19	-.13
Fidelity Invest-Govt	92.38	-.19	-.13
Fidelity Invest-Govt	92.38	-.19	-.13
Fidelity Invest-Govt	92.38	-.19	-.13
Fidelity Invest-Govt	92.38	-.19	-.13
Fidelity Invest-Govt	92.38	-.19	-.13
Fidelity Invest-Govt	92.38	-.19	-.13
Fidelity Invest-Govt	92.38	-.19	-.13
Fidelity Invest-Govt	92.38	-.19	-.13
Fidelity Invest-Govt	92.38	-.19	-.13

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs	\$1.3699
British pound	.6073
Japanese yen (March 21)	102.00
South Korean won (March 19)	977.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	6.7399
Canada (Dollar)	1.2107
Canada (Dollar)	1.2107
Canada (Dollar)	1.2107
Canada (Dollar)	1.2107
Canada (Dollar)	1.2107
Canada (Dollar)	1.2107
Canada (Dollar)	1.2107
Canada (Dollar)	1.2107
Canada (Dollar)	1.2107

NASDAQ	
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Name	Vol
NewsCorp	35,625
NewsCorp	35,625
NewsCorp	35,625
NewsCorp	35,625
NewsCorp	35,625
NewsCorp	35,625
NewsCorp	35,625
NewsCorp	35,625
NewsCorp	35,625
NewsCorp	35,625

PRECIOUS METALS	
London close	
Gold	\$430.90
Silver	\$7.95
Palladium	\$1,100.00
Platinum	\$1,100.00
Palladium	\$1,100.00
Palladium	\$1,100.00
Palladium	\$1,100.00
Palladium	\$1,100.00
Palladium	\$1,100.00
Palladium	\$1,100.00

INTEREST RATES

London close	
Gold	\$430.9
Silver	\$7.0

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.5
Discount rate	3.5
Federal funds market rate	2.7
3-month bill	2.8
30-year bond	4.8

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

What to do with tax refund

WORK WALK — When your income-tax refund arrives, what will you do with the money? Not every American is dreaming of a new flat-screen TV, according to a survey of 1,004 taxpayers by TrueCredit.com and Roper Public Affairs. For 41 percent, the money is already slated to pay off debt — particularly mortgages and credit card bills.

Another 28 percent said they would buy something they need. 26 percent will put their money into savings. Only 9 percent of respondents said they would use it to splurge on something fun.

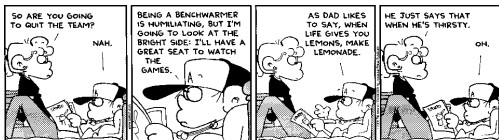
Most Americans seem to have the right idea. The best way to use your refund is to repay it as

an unexpected windfall to make your financial situation a bit easier.

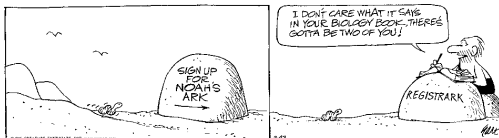
Your first priority should be to pay down debt. The average consumer carries \$8,400 in debt. Using all or part of your refund can help you pay down (and maybe even wipe out) your credit balances.

Your next priority should be savings. Financial advisers generally recommend setting aside enough money to cover three to six months' worth of living expenses. This financial safety net can help you if you lose your job or have an unexpected emergency. Put the money in an interest-earning savings or money market account, where you can access it easily.

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



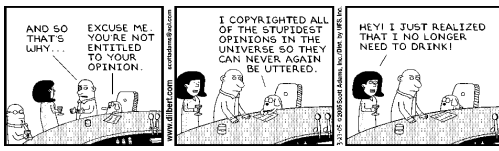
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



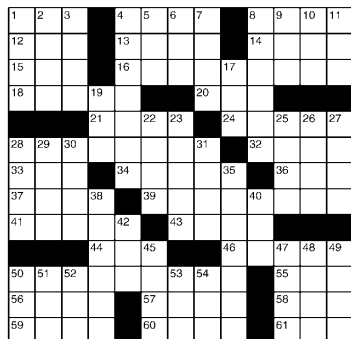
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Showman
- 2 Ziegfeld
- 4 Lean-to
- 8 Close tightly
- 12 Have a bug
- 13 Frat-party garb
- 14 Bullets
- 15 Meadow
- 16 "No more," in diner jargon
- 18 Moon-related
- 20 Mainlander's memento
- 21 Booty
- 24 Legislate
- 28 Direct paths
- 32 Neutral color
- 33 Wapiti
- 34 Dolt
- 36 Kreskin's claim
- 37 A util.
- 39 Ocean event
- 41 Turkish bigwig
- 43 Moroccan island group
- 44 Curved line
- 46 Man of morals?
- 50 Truck-engine fuel
- 55 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 56 "— She Sweet?"
- 57 Countercart
- 58 Bear hair
- 59 Tarry
- 60 Unravel a bit
- 61 Ostrich's cousin

Down

- 1 Decline
- 2 Stead
- 3 "The Good Earth" heroine
- 4 Performance-enhancing drug
- 5 — polloi
- 6 Quiche need
- 7 Actress Arlene
- 8 Proverb
- 9 Type squares
- 10 "What Kind of Fool —?"
- 11 Bagel topping
- 12 Prop for Ernie Els
- 13 Every last iota
- 15 Midafternoon, on a sundial
- 22 Conclusion
- 23 Doctrine
- 25 Vicinity
- 26 Barrel
- 27 Categorize
- 28 Gridlock noise
- 29 Ms. Fitzgerald
- 30 Supplements, with "out"
- 31 Wound reminder
- 35 The same for everybody
- 38 Pura
- 40 Guitar's kin
- 42 Exist
- 45 Staff leader?
- 47 Ump's call
- 48 Latin 6-Down
- 49 Llamas' home
- 50 Brylcreem dosage
- 51 Midafternoon, on a sundial
- 52 Conclusion
- 53 Scull tool
- 54 Roth plan

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-23 CRYPTOQUIP

H X F L N W Q N W M Q L Q A Q
 I E A A H Q C X N A O H K F P Q E A O .
 F S E F O E V N N C Q K E I W M Q

N X S H V S X H C Q M H F P .
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: I'VE HAD THIS LARGE
 SHAVING SCAR FOR DECADES THAT I LIKE
 TO REFER TO AS "OLD NICK."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: A equals R

Looking to end angry outbursts

Dear Abby: I really, really need your help. I have serious anger issues. Almost every day I lash out at my mother, and it makes her very sad. Recently my mom went through a bout of depression. She has relapses sometimes, yet I am unable to control my yelling at her. I am 13, but I realize that I am already an abuser and I don't know how to stop. Little things set me off on a screaming frenzy at my poor mother.

Please I mean, I'm afraid I will hurt her one day because of this, and I would never forgive myself. And please don't print my name and address. We live in a small town, and I don't want people to know. — 13 And Scared in Virginia

Dear Scared: It is important that you pinpoint exactly what is making you so angry. If it is something other than your mother, then you're making her a

scapegoat for what is really bothering you. If it is your mother, you must find healthier, more constructive ways of expressing your anger than screaming at her because, as you have pointed out, it may escalate.

Dear Abby



I have a booklet that could help you to understand and control your outbursts. It's called "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." It can be ordered by sending a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus a check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.) Among the suggestions I offer in the booklet are: "Recognize that you are getting angry. Admit that your buttons are being pushed and that you're about to 'lose it'."

(By losing it, I mean expressing yourself emotionally, without control.) "Some healthy, accept-

able ways to express anger: "Express your feelings without being abusive or calling names. Say, 'When you do (), it makes me angry.' And then explain why." "Take a walk. Remove yourself from the source of your anger until you cool off."

"Write a letter to the person who has angered you, expressing your feelings. You may never deliver it; in fact, you probably shouldn't—but you'll feel much better once you get your emotions down on paper and out of your system."

"When all else fails—have a good cry. That, too, will lessen the tension."

But whatever you do, do NOT raise your hand in anger against your mother. If your anger is truly out of control, ask your mother to make an appointment for you to discuss it with a psychologist so he or she can help you form the tools to control it or channel it in a constructive way.

Letters for this column—with your name, phone number and address—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYTIK
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CLATH
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SHENOC
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www.jumble.com

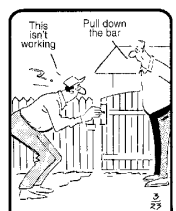
RANCLC
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(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: COUGH YACHT KIDNAP NEST
Answer: When she got the bill for the diamond pin, he got —STUCK— WITH IT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



WHAT HE DISCOVERED WHEN HE TRIED TO OPEN THE LATCH.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Let wife handle cheating husband

Dear Annie: I dated a 23-year-old man for about three months. We had so much fun together. There was not one day that we did not see each other, and yes, we had sex. He ended up going back to the United States, and we decided we wouldn't be able to sustain a long-distance relationship. So, we pretty much just called it off.

The day after he left, I received a phone call from his wife. This man told me he was never married. She wanted to know the details, and I told her everything. I even let her know that he said he loved me and that he cried the night before he left.

I tried to convince his wife that her husband is the one who married up and that she and her 2-year-old son can do so much better. A month later, she called me again to tell me they are still together. This time I asked her to

Annie's Mailbox



leave me alone. Then her husband called me as well, but I was so upset, I hung up on him.

Why should she stay with that snake? Should I just stay out of their lives and let him continue lying to her?

—Betrayed in Canada
Dear Betrayed: Yes, stay out of their lives and let them deal with

their own problems. There is nothing you can say or do that will make things better for either of them, or for yourself. You've learned a bitter lesson, but you survived it and will be smarter next time.

Dear Annie: I wanted to underscore your advice to "Prematurely Stuck in Adulthood," the young man who was distressed about taking life too seriously. He referred to this tendency as a "personality shortcoming"

and asked how to loosen up.

As a professional coach and certified behavioral analyst, I work with my clients to maximize their strengths. Based on his core behavioral style, this gentleman has many wonderful and valuable strengths that he may not be aware of. He is probably very conscientious and loyal, and will often go the extra mile to get the job done—and done right. He is also someone who maintains high standards for himself and is attentive to detail.

Your advice to him not to be so hard on himself was sound. These are all wonderful, valuable characteristics.

—M.J.S., Crossville, Tenn.

Dear Crossville: Thank you for your expert opinion.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annielandlers@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 500, Los Angeles CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

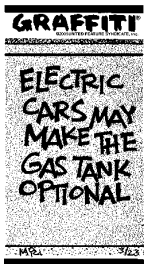
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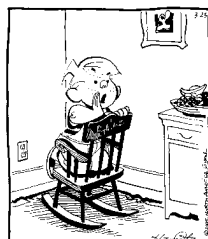
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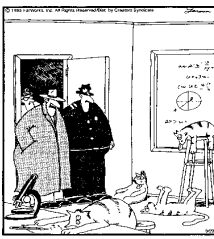
"Why would anybody make a puzzle out of cross words?"



Domis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—College basketball: NFL second round, Cal State-Fullerton at Indiana.

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—College basketball: NFL second round, Iowa State at North Carolina (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—Baseball: Spring training, Chicago Cubs at Arizona.

Thursday

AFN-Atlantic, 11 a.m.—NBA: San Antonio at Indiana.

AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.—NBA: Detroit at Philadelphia.

AFN-Radio, 2 a.m.—NBA: Detroit at Philadelphia.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: Dallas at Golden State.

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—College basketball: NFL second round, Texas Tech (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—College basketball: NFL second round, Texas Tech (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—Golf: The Players Championship, first round.

All times are Central European Time (dtd indicated where broadcast). All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Baseball

Spring Training Games

AMERICAN LEAGUE	
Toronto	W 1, L 5
Los Angeles	W 1, L 5
Tampa Bay	W 1, L 5
Chicago	W 1, L 5
Minnesota	W 1, L 5
Cleveland	W 1, L 5
New York	W 1, L 5
Washington	W 1, L 5
Seattle	W 1, L 5
NATIONAL LEAGUE	
New York	W 1, L 5
San Francisco	W 1, L 5
Colorado	W 1, L 5
Washington	W 1, L 5
St. Louis	W 1, L 5
Arizona	W 1, L 5
Cincinnati	W 1, L 5
Philadelphia	W 1, L 5
San Diego	W 1, L 5
Florida	W 1, L 5
Los Angeles	W 1, L 5
San Francisco	W 1, L 5
Seattle	W 1, L 5

NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings, games against nonleague teams do not.

Monday's games	
Washington 1, Florida 0	
Atlanta 5, St. Louis 5	
Toronto 3, Pittsburgh 5	
Minnesota 5, Tampa Bay 3	
Minnesota 3, Philadelphia 2	
Boston 3, L.A. Dodgers 3	
San Diego 4, Milwaukee 3	
Boston 12, Chicago Cubs 5	
San Francisco 5, Oakland 4	
Arizona 7, Detroit 4	
N.Y. Yankees 6, Cleveland 2	
Seattle 12, Colorado 2	

L.A. Dodgers vs. Florida at Jupiter, Fla.
Washington vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.

Detroit vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
Tampa Bay vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

San Francisco vs. St. Louis at St. Louis, Mo.
Oakland vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.

San Diego vs. Chicago at Kissimmee, Fla.
Arizona vs. L.A. Angels at Ft. Pierce, Fla.

San Francisco vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.

San Francisco vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.

Wednesday's games
Baltimore vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
Toronto vs. Pittsburgh at Fort Myers, Fla.

San Francisco vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.
San Diego vs. Chicago at Kissimmee, Fla.

San Francisco vs. St. Louis at St. Louis, Mo.
Oakland vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.

San Diego vs. Chicago at Kissimmee, Fla.
Arizona vs. L.A. Angels at Ft. Pierce, Fla.

San Francisco vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.

San Francisco vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.

Thursday's games
Baltimore vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
Toronto vs. Pittsburgh at Fort Myers, Fla.

San Francisco vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.
San Diego vs. Chicago at Kissimmee, Fla.

San Francisco vs. St. Louis at St. Louis, Mo.
Oakland vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.

San Diego vs. Chicago at Kissimmee, Fla.
Arizona vs. L.A. Angels at Ft. Pierce, Fla.

San Francisco vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.

San Francisco vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.

Wisconsin 37, Northern Iowa 52
Bucknell 64, Kansas 61
Second Round
North Carolina 56, Connecticut 62
North Carolina 52, Iowa State 55
Wisconsin 71, Bucknell 64

Friday, March 25
Wisconsin (24-9) vs. North Carolina State (24-9)
North Carolina (29-9) vs. Villanova (24-7)

Saturday, March 26
Championship
CHICAGO REGIONAL
First Round

Wisconsin-Milwaukee 83, Alabama 73
Texas A&M 66, Pennsylvania State 65
Nebraska 61, Texas Tech 55

Second Round
Wisconsin-Milwaukee 83, Alabama 73
Texas A&M 66, Pennsylvania State 65
Nebraska 61, Texas Tech 55

Friday, March 25
Oklahoma State 81, Southern California 59
Southern Illinois (17-13) vs. Saint Mary's (Louisville) 55

Second Round
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Saturday, March 26
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OKLAHOMA STATE
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DePaul 75, Missouri 70
Weissbach 60, Miami (Ohio) 58
Texas Christian 56, Miami (Ohio) 58
Georgetown 64, Boston U. 56
Memphis 66, North Carolina 57
Vanderbilt 66, Indiana 60
Texas A&M 66, Clemson 75
Maryland 85, Arizona 77

Friday, March 25
UNLV 59, Arizona 77
Cal State Fullerton 66, San Francisco 69
Davidson 66, Southwestern Missouri State 71
White State 64, Western Kentucky 81

Saturday, March 26
Championship
OKLAHOMA STATE
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Coastal Carolina 93, Holy Point 6
Drexel 66, Wake Forest 7
Wright 66, Wake Forest 7
Wright 66, Wake Forest 7
Wright 66, Wake Forest 7
Wright 66, Wake Forest 7
Wright 66, Wake Forest 7
Wright 66, Wake Forest 7

Friday, March 25
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Cal State Fullerton 66, San Francisco 69
Davidson 66, Southwestern Missouri State 71
White State 64, Western Kentucky 81

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Orlando Magic guard Steve Francis, right, was given a three-day suspension by the NBA for kicking a courtside photographer Friday.

Francis suspension set at three games by NBA

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Orlando guard Steve Francis was suspended three games Monday by the NBA for kicking a courtside photographer last week.

"This definitely doesn't make it easy," interim coach Chris Jent said before the Magic played the Charlotte Bobcats. "You lose your catalyst, your guy. We have great players, but it's hard to replace Steve Francis."

The NBA initially suspended Francis indefinitely after he kicked a photographer in the fourth quarter of the Magic's loss in Seattle on Friday. After an investigation, the league settled on the three-game suspension.

Francis began his suspension at Portland on Saturday and will sit out Orlando's next two games, both against the Bobcats.

Iverson forreases NBA penalty after argument with official

PHILADELPHIA — Allen Iverson said Monday he's been contacted by the NBA regarding his allegation that a referee made inappropriate comments to him during a heated exchange following the 76ers' loss to the Chicago Bulls.

He also said he expected to be fined or suspended because he started the argument.

Iverson, upset about calls, challenged referee Marc Davis after the 94-88 loss on Saturday, and said Davis responded by saying he would "whup my ass."

Iverson had to be restrained by teammates, and a few minutes later was seen heading in the direction of a referees' dressing room before general manager Billy King interceded and calmed him down.

"From the history of it, I suspect something will happen to me," said Iverson, who did not practice with the team because of a thumb injury. "I would not be surprised if they decide I was wrong and should be punished."

"I said things that if it was during a game I'd probably get a [technical foul]. And if I kept on



Briefs

going like I was, I would've been thrown out of the game."

NBA spokesman Tim Frank declined comment.

Iverson said Davis' response surprised him, but he didn't think the referee would be unfair down the road to him or the team.

"Regardless of what he said, I don't think he'd do anything in the future as far as making calls against me," Iverson said. "I think he respects the game more than that."

Lakers F Odum's injury diagnosed as shoulder tear

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odum was diagnosed Monday with a small tear and a rotator cuff contusion in his left shoulder.

Odum, who did not accompany the Lakers on their road trip, was examined Monday by team doctor Steve Lombardi and shoulder specialist Dr. James Tibone. He will be re-evaluated Wednesday and is considered day-to-day, the team said.

The Lakers play at Utah on Tuesday and at Denver on Thursday.

Odum was hurt during the first half against Indiana on Friday night. He leads the team in rebounds (10.2) and is averaging 15.2 points, 3.7 assists and 1.02 blocks in 36.3 minutes.

Bulls activate Deng

CHICAGO — The Chicago Bulls activated forward Luol Deng from the injured list Monday.

The 6-foot-8 rookie from Duke missed 10 games with a right ankle sprain. He has started 45 games this season and is averaging 12.2 points and 5.4 rebounds.

The Bulls placed rookie center Jared Reiner on the injured list with a left hip flexor strain. He is averaging 1.2 points and 1.8 rebounds in 11 games.

NFL competition committee has plenty to say at meetings

Tagliabue says talks to extend CBA are at 'dead end'

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii — A week in Maui was anything but a vacation for the NFL's competition committee.

The eight voting members of the committee, headed by Tennessee Titans coach Jeff Fisher and Atlanta Falcons General Manager Rich McKay, are making 19 rules proposals to the owners at the annual meetings. Several are controversial enough to cause vehement debate.

Among the proposals are: expanding the college rule for 15-yard defensive pass interference penalties rather than continuing with spot fouls — unless the foul was within 15 yards of the line of scrimmage; eliminating peel-back blocks below the waist outside the tackle box; and extending replay challenges to cover fumbles on plays already whistled by officials because the ball carrier was ruled to be down by contact.

The committee also seeks to eliminate "horse-collar tackles," where the defender grabs the ball carrier inside the back of the shoulder pads and immediately drags him down while also falling on his legs. Such tackles would be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct, a 15-yard penalty.

"We want to eliminate dangerous plays that lead to injuries," Fisher said Monday. "We looked at all injury tapes and 90 percent of lower extremity injuries, eight or nine could've been avoided. Four or five were associated with this type of technique."

Another replay change would be the elimination of the buzzer system, which McKay and Fisher both comically mentioned is abused by certain coaches to slow down the run of play. No longer will coaches be able to claim the buzzer went off accidentally because they won't be hooked up; only by throwing the red flag onto the field will they be able to alert officials about a challenge.

"If you throw the flag and don't have any more challenges or timeouts, the referee added, "it will be a [15-yard] penalty."

Another proposal will protect a player who is out of a play from being blindsided, a tactic often used against kickers or punters, or against quarterbacks after an interception.

Earlier Monday, commissioner Paul Tagliabue told the owners that talks to extend the collective bargaining agreement with the players are "at a dead end."

While Tagliabue would not concede that internal squabbles have stalled talks, it was evident from owners that the simmering contention between high-revenue and low-revenue teams has contributed as much to the impasse as a division between the union and the league.

"The union is asking for a lot of money," said Dan Rooney, the owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers, one of the have-not teams. "We can't get to that because of where we are among ourselves."

Compensatory draft picks awarded

The Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Philadelphia and St. Louis will get four compensatory picks in next month's NFL Draft and Carolina, New England and San Francisco will get three each among the 32 extra choices mandated by the league's labor agreement.

A total of 14 teams will get extra selections in the third through seventh rounds, based on the value of the free agents they lost in 2004.

The Titans, who lost defensive linemen Jevon Kearse to Philadelphia and Robaire Smith to Houston, will get the first of the choices, 96th overall at the end of the third round.

The number of picks a team receives and the rounds they come in are based on a formula that takes into account salary, playing time and postseason honors by players they lost. The maximum any one team can get is four picks.

The Thursday night opener has become a tradition. This will be the fourth such opener.

In announcing the opening weekend's national TV schedule, the league also placed the NFL champion Eagles on the road for the first Monday night game. Philadelphia will be at Atlanta in a re-



Briefs

match of the NFC championship game.

Also on the first weekend, Indianapolis will be at Baltimore for the Sunday night game on ESPN, and Dallas is at San Diego for the Fox afternoon doubleheader on Sunday, Sept. 11.

The remainder of the 2005 schedule will be announced next month, except for the Oct. 2 Sunday night game between the host Arizona Cardinals and San Francisco 49ers in Mexico City.

Falcons sign LB Hartwell

ATLANTA — Free agent linebacker Ed Hartwell signed a six-year, \$26.25 million contract with the Atlanta Falcons on Monday.

The deal includes an \$8 million signing bonus, which is guaranteed money, and he will earn \$10 million in the first two years.

Ravens match sheet for backup RB Taylor

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — The Baltimore Ravens have matched the one-year, \$3 million offer sheet running back Chester Taylor signed last week with the Cleveland Browns.

The Ravens had until Wednesday to match the offer for free agent Taylor, the primary backup to Pro Bowler Jamal Lewis, but opted to go to Monday.

The deal includes a \$2 million base salary, a \$1 million signing bonus and a pair of \$100,000 incentive clauses.

Former Panther Carruth's request for new trial denied

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Former Carolina Panthers player Rae Carruth was denied a request for a new trial in the 1999 shooting death of his pregnant girlfriend.

Judge Charles C. Lamm Jr. on Monday rejected Carruth's arguments that a 911 call made by Cherica Adams moments after her shooting should not have been allowed into evidence at Carruth's 2000 trial.

The former wide receiver is serving a sentence of at least 18 years and 11 months at Nash Correctional Institution, about 55 miles from Raleigh.

Backup QB Palmer re-signs with Giants

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jesse Palmer, the longtime backup quarterback who got more exposure as "The Bachelor" on television than on the field, re-signed with the Giants on Monday.

Terms of the contract were not immediately available.

Palmer will compete with Jim Miller for the backup quarterback job behind second-year starter Eli Manning.

Former Steelers LB Little dies while lifting weights

PITTSBURGH — David Little, a durable linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers who was voted to the Pro Bowl in 1990, died while weightlifting at home in Miami. He was 46.

Little had heart disease, and a cardiac fluttering Thursday caused him to drop 250 pounds of weights while lifting, the coroner said Tuesday. The weights rolled onto his neck and suffocated him, the coroner said.

Bonds might be out for season

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Learing his head on a crutch and repeatedly saying he was tired, Barry Bonds said he might miss the entire season following his latest knee surgery.

"Right now I'm just going to try to rehab myself to get back to it, I don't know, hopefully next season, hopefully the middle of the season. I don't know. Right now I'm just going to take things slow," he said Tuesday after meeting with San Francisco Giants trainer Stan Conte for 1½ hours.

"I'm 40 years old, not 20, 30." The seven-time NL MVP, who returned to spring camp Tuesday following last week's surgery, made his remarks while sitting at a picnic table outside the Giants' clubhouse with his 15-year-old son, Nikoli, at his side.

Bonds said he was tired and disappointed following a winter in which he was accused of steroid use, his grand jury testimony was leaked and he had two knee operations. He blamed his troubles on the media.

"You wanted me to jump off a bridge. I finally did," Bonds said. "You finally brought me and my family down.... So now go pick a different person."

Bonds had his latest surgery last Thursday in the Bay Area. Though the Giants have not set a timetable for his return, Conte said he's unlikely he'll be ready for Opening Day.

"My son and I are just going to enjoy our lives. You guys wanted to hurt me bad enough, you finally got me," Bonds said. "I'm mentally drained. I'm tired of my kids crying."

Bonds is third on the career home runs list with 703, trailing Babe Ruth (714) and Hank Aaron (755).

Briefs

Last September, the Giants dropped a provision that would have allowed them to void Bonds' \$18 million salary in 2006 if he failed to reach 500 plate appearances this year or 1,500 combined from 2003 to 2005, including at least 400 this year.

Cubs' Borowski cut at least six weeks with broken arm

MESA, Ariz. — Chicago Cubs reliever Joe Borowski will miss at least six weeks with a broken bone in his arm, another loss for a pitching staff already without Kerry Wood and Mark Prior.

Borowski sustained a non-displaced fracture in his right ulna when he was hit by a line drive in Monday's 12-5 loss to Kansas City. He's wearing a splint and will begin a throwing program when the healing process is complete, approximately six weeks.

The injury means the Cubs will have to scramble again to fill a hole on their pitching staff. They're already without their top two starters, Wood and Prior. Wood has bursitis in his shoulder, but was scheduled to throw a side session Tuesday and could pitch in a game later this week. Prior has inflammation in his elbow. He didn't have any soreness after throwing off a mound Sunday, and planned to throw again Tuesday.

Cardinals apologize to Helton, Rockies for steroid flap

DENVER — St. Louis Cardinals General Manager Walt Jocketty apologized to Colorado Rockies for comments by radio

broadcaster Wayne Hugin suggesting Colorado first baseman Todd Helton used steroids.

"He said on behalf of their organization that he was sorry, and that Todd Helton is one of the finest people in baseball," Rockies General Manager Dan O'Dowd said after a conversation with Jocketty on Monday.

Hugin was a Rockies announcer before taking a job with the St. Louis team.

Dan Farrell, the Cardinals' senior vice president of marketing and sales, said Hugin would not be disciplined.

"It's the Cardinals' understanding that the comments were taken out of context. It's been clarified as to specifically what Wayne was talking about," Farrell said. "We apologize to Todd and to the Rockies for any problems this may have caused. As far as we are concerned, it's a closed matter."

In an interview Saturday with a St. Louis radio station, Hugin said, "I know [Helton] tried it because (former Rockies manager) Don Baylor told me. He said to me, 'I told him to get off the juice, that he was a player who didn't need that, get off it.'"

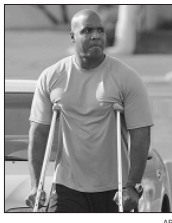
The comment was widely reported as a reference to steroids, but Hugin has insisted he was talking about supplements.

"Not once did I say 'steroids,'" Hugin said. "They have sensationalized this."

Earlier later said he was referring to creatine, a legal over-the-counter supplement.

Helton denied using steroids.

"It's frustrating and disappointing that you have to defend yourself for something you didn't do just because some guy wants to talk to hear himself talk," Helton said in Tucson, Ariz., where the Rockies are in spring training.



AP

San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds, shown returning to training camp Tuesday in Scottsdale, Ariz., might be out for the season after a second arthroscopic surgery on his right knee last week

Report: Red Sox to stay in Fenway Park

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox are set to announce plans to make historic Fenway Park the team's long-term home. The Boston Globe reported Tuesday.

Red Sox officials are expected to announce the team's plan to stay put in Fenway, baseball's oldest and smallest stadium, during an invitation-only gathering of Boston business leaders Wednesday.

Those plans also call for the team to push for public financing to improve streets and sidewalks around the stadium and to build one or more garages and a new train station at Yawkey Way.

However, unidentified Red Sox officials told the Globe that the plans aren't contingent on securing public financing for the improvements.

Phone and e-mail messages for team president Larry Lucchino and Charles Steinberg, the team's executive vice president of public affairs, were not immediately returned Tuesday.

Dodgers' Gagne still tentative

The Associated Press

Eric Gagne was tentative in his first outing of spring training.

John Smoltz has been dominant in his return to Atlanta's starting rotation.

On Tuesday, Mariano Rivera will make his first relief appearance since March 14.

Gagne tried to adjust his pitching motion to protect his knee during an inning of work Monday, and Derek Lowe gave up two runs against his former team in the Dodgers' 7-3 loss to the Boston Red Sox at Vero Beach, Fla.

"I don't think Gagne's been pitched since he sprained a ligament in his knee on Feb. 24. On Monday, the right-hander took a quick-hitter early in the game to prevent too much strain on the knee when his front leg landed."

"I tried to protect it and not put too much weight on it," Gagne said. "It feels pretty good right now. I knew it wouldn't feel good (during the game)."

Gagne limped back to the mound after every pitch in the sixth inning. He faced four batters, walked one, struck out one and got two groundouts. "I don't think he was in top condition. He wasn't throwing correctly," pitching coach Jim Colborn said. "I expected that because in his last bullpen session he was throwing cleanly. He was falling off the side of the mound."

Lowe gave up two runs and six hits, including a single to Red Sox starter Bronson Arroyo. Lowe struck out three and walked two in five innings.

At Fenway Park in Boston, Smoltz pitched four-hit ball over five innings against St. Louis. He has allowed only nine hits in 14 scoreless innings this spring.

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Gofer Norman has surgery on back

The Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — Fearing he might have to retire from golf, two-time British Open champion Greg Norman had back surgery Tuesday and hopes to resume playing within three months.

Norman has cut back on his golf the last two years because of recurring back pain. He played seven times on the PGA Tour last year, but never broke par and made only one cut.

He had to withdraw earlier this month from the Dubai Desert Classic.

"I had a simple choice," Norman said. "Either retire from the game of golf or seek any and all available means to help relieve the pain that has kept me from performing at a level that suits my standards, and at the same time improves my quality of life."

Norman had the 90-minute operation at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Joseph Maroon, the neurosurgeon at the Pittsburgh Steelers since 1977, said Norman is expected to make a full recovery.

Norman turned 50 in February and was expected to play in the Senior PGA Championship in late May at Laurel Valley.

Sports briefs

"My desire remains the same, and that is to return to competition as soon as possible," Norman said.

Boxer Chavez to get back in ring again

LOS ANGELES — Julio Cesar Chavez is the latest athlete to be drawn out of retirement by the lure of one more paycheck.

Nearly a year after defeating Frankie Randall in what Chavez said was his final fight, the 42-year-old boxer has another one lined up.

Chavez will take on Ivan Robinson in a 10-round super lightweight fight May 28 at Staples Center that is being billed as the Mexican's "Adios" to Los Angeles.

Chavez (106-5-2, 88 knockouts) has been idle since earning a unanimous decision over Randall in Mexico City in May.

"I know I'm not the same fighter, but there is still a little bit of the Julio you saw," he said. "It's not an easy fight, but I will be

ready for him. This fight is for all the Mexican people who live here in L.A."

Robinson (39-9-2, 12 KOs) is best known for two victories over current WBC super lightweight champion Arturo Gatti in 1998.

The 34-year-old last fought in February, winning a six-round unanimous decision over Tyrone Winkler in his hometown of Philadelphia.

"It's a dream come true, but then again this is the scariest fight of my career," Robinson said. "I'm fighting a legend. Out of my wins, his 88 knockouts is really what has astounded me. The kid hasn't fought a bum in a long time."

Longtime Louisiana-Monroe basketball coach Vining quits

MONROE, La. — Mike Vining resigned as Louisiana-Monroe's basketball coach Tuesday after 24 years at his alma mater, finishing with an 8-19 record for his third straight losing season.

Vining said he met with athletic director Bobby Staub during the weekend and decided the program would benefit from new leadership before it moves to the Sun Belt Conference in 2006-07.

Women's NCAA tournament

No. 1 seed Michigan St. survives scare from USC

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Rene Haynes saved top-seeded Michigan State from an embarrassing early exit from the NCAA tournament.

Haynes came out of a wild scramble with the ball and made a layup with 2.9 seconds left, giving Michigan State a 61-59 victory over eighth-seeded Southern California in a second-round game Monday night.

It was a scary game for the Spartans (30-3), who were outshotted and outrebounced by their young, scrappy opponent. But they survived and will take a 14-game winning streak into the semifinals of the Kansas City regional on Sunday, where they will face fifth-seeded Vanderbilt.

Lindsay Bowen led Michigan State with 19 points, including four huge three-pointers in the second half. Her final three gave the Spartans a 59-56 lead with

37.3 seconds to play, but USC (20-11) tied it on freshman Brynn Camm's long three with 21.7 seconds remaining.

The Spartans then got the ball inside, the shot was blocked and players dove over the floor trying to get the ball. Haynes, a sophomore, finally came up with it to the left of the lane, took a step and made the basket.

Southern Cal wasn't able to get off a final shot and Michigan State moved on, despite going

more than 5 minutes without scoring in the second half.

USC got a big game from freshman Camille LeNoir, who scored 12 points and made four of 12 nine quick points at the start of the second half to get the Trojans back in it after they trailed by six in the first half and finished with a career-high 18. Kim Gipson added 14 for the Trojans, who out-rebounded Michigan State 36-31, and Eshaya Murphy scored 14.

Liz Shimek had 14 for Michigan State, which couldn't hold a

six-point lead midway through the second half, and Kristin Haynie scored 12.

Despite the loss, the season was a positive step in first-year coach Mark Trakh's effort to return the program to national prominence. USC made the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1997 and won 20 games for the first time since that season.

And the Trojans went out knowing they took one of the nation's top programs to the final buzzer.

Loney, ASU topple fourth-seeded Irish

The Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — Arizona State's aggressive defense, timely shooting and gritty determination earned the Sun Devils that coveted trip home for the Tempe Regional semifinals.

Kylan Loney scored eight points in the final 1:29 and finished with 20 and the fifth-seeded Sun Devils erased an early 13-point deficit to shock No. 4 Notre Dame 70-61 on Monday night, winning a second-round game for the first time.

They immediately rushed to center court to celebrate.

Aubree Johnson had 12 points and nine rebounds and Amy Denson added 11 points and eight rebounds off the bench for the spirited Sun Devils, who gained the momentum on Betsy Boardman's buzzer-beating three-pointer at halftime.

The Fighting Irish, ranked 11th in the nation and trying to advance past the second round for the third straight year, didn't exhibit the kind of fight the Sun Devils showed in the second half.

Arizona State (24-9), the Pac-10's top defensive team this season, hustled into the huddle during timeouts and hit the floor for loose balls. Coach Charli Turner Thorne high-fived his players — a fire them up at every opportunity — as the Sun Devils kept making big baskets whenever Notre Dame (27-6) threatened.

After Jacqueline Bateast's put-back pulled the Irish to 49-41 with 6:11 remaining, Emily West-erberg converted a three-point play on the other end for Arizona State, making an off-balance layup at 5:47. And Kristen Kovesdy answered a Notre Dame score with a fast-break layup at 3:30 to make it 58-50.

Bateast had 20 points, eight rebounds and three blocks for Notre Dame, which committed 23 turnovers, had only seven assists and went away from what had worked so well in the first half: pounding the ball inside. Megan Duffy, who brought the Irish back in their first-round victory over UC Santa Barbara, scored 20 of her 24 points after halftime.

Also in the Tempe Regional:

Minnesota 73, Virginia 58: At Minneapolis, Jamie Brobeck had 23 points and five rebounds to help third-seeded Minnesota beat Virginia for its third straight trip to the round of 16.

Janel McCarville, playing her final home game, went 3-for-7 from the floor and finished with 11 points, 14 rebounds and four fouls — blowing a kiss and waving to the roaring Williams Arena crowd of 10,043 as she left.

Minnesota (26-7) will play Baylor in Tempe on Saturday.

Sharnae Zoll led sixth-seeded Virginia (21-11) with 20 points.

Baylor 69, Oregon 46: At Seattle, Sophia Young scored 25 points in 11-for-19 shooting, and second-seeded Baylor pulled away with an 18-0 run.

The Lady Bears improved to 29-3, their most victories since winning 29 games in 1980-81. Cathrine Kravayev led 10th-seeded Oregon (21-10) with 15 points.

Kansas City Regional

Vanderbilt 63, Kansas State 60: At Seattle, Carla Thomas scored 18 points and fifth-seeded Vanderbilt overcame a late Kansas State rally to beat the fourth-seeded Wildcats.

Kansas State senior Laurie Koehn broke the NCAA career record for three-pointers, hitting three to finish her career with 392. Erin Thorn of BYU made 391 from 1999-03.

Ashley Earley added 17 points for Vanderbilt (24-7). Kendra Wecker led Kansas State (24-8) with 29 points.

Stanford 88, Utah 62: At Fresno, Calif., Brooke Smith scored 20 points to lead five players in double figures and the top-ranked Cardinal cruised to their 22nd straight victory.

Stanford (31-2), seeded second, will play the winner of Tuesday night's Connecticut-Florida State game on Sunday in Kansas City.

Kim Smith led Utah (26-8) with 20 points.

Chattanooga Regional

Georgia 70, Texas 68: At Dallas, Tasha Humphrey scored 26



Arizona State's Kylan Loney leaps into the arms of Aubree Johnson after their 70-61 win over Notre Dame in a second-round NCAA tournament game Monday in Fresno, Calif. Loney scored 20 points.

points and Cori Chambers had 15 to lead sixth-seeded Georgia to its second victory of the season over third-seeded Texas (22-9).

Georgia (24-9) advanced to the round of 16 for the third straight year and the 15th time in 21 appearances. The Lady Bulldogs will face the winner of Tuesday night's Duke-Boston College game on Saturday in the Chattanooga Regional semifinals.

Texas' Heather Schreiber tried to win the game with a three-point at the buzzer but the shot hit the corner of rim. The Longhorns' Tiffany Jackson tied her career high with 30 points, but her tying attempt with 12 seconds remaining was blocked.

Philadelphia Regional

Texas Tech 80, Middle Tennessee 69: At Dallas, Alesha Robertson scored 25 points, and Cisti Greenwalt added 19 for fourth-seeded Texas Tech (24-7).

Texas Tech, in the round of 16 for the 11th time, will face the winner of Tuesday night's Tennessee-Purdue game on Sunday in Philadelphia.

Holmes, who hit the winning jumper with 1.6 seconds left Saturday in 12th-seeded Middle Tennessee's 60-58 victory over fifth-seeded North Carolina State, scored 25 points for the Lady Raiders (24-9).

Women's NCAA tournament

PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL

First Round
Saturday, March 19
Middle Tennessee State 60, North Carolina State 58
Texas Tech 69, Texas-Arlington 49
Purdue 68, New Mexico 56
Tennessee 64, Western Carolina 43
Temple 66, Louisiana Tech 61
Rutgers 62, Hartford 37
Ohio State 86, Iowa Cross 65
Maryland 65, Wisconsin-Green Bay 55

Second Round
Monday, March 20
Texas Tech 69, Middle Tennessee State 69
Tennessee 67-45 vs. Purdue (17-12)
Temple (38-1) vs. Rutgers (26-6)
Maryland (22-0) vs. Ohio State (29-4)

Semifinals
Tuesday, March 21
Texas Tech (24-7) vs. Tennessee/Purdue
Temple/Rutgers vs. Maryland/Ohio State

Championship
Tuesday, March 22

CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL

First Round
Saturday, March 19
Texas 64, Oral Roberts 47
Georgia 75, Rice 49
Arizona 72, Oklahoma 69
LSU 70, Seton Hall 56
DePaul 78, Penn State 70
Duke 80, Canisius 48
Boston College 66, Houston 43

Second Round
Monday, March 20
Georgia 70, Texas 69
LSU (30-2) vs. Arizona (29-1)
DePaul (26-4) vs. Liberty (24-6)
Boston College (29-9) vs. Duke (29-4)

Semifinals
Saturday, March 26
Arizona vs. DePaul
Georgia (24-9) vs. Boston College/Duke

Championship
Monday, March 28

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL

First Round
Saturday, March 19
Southern California 65, Louisville 49
Michigan State 73, Alcorn State 41
Utah 71, Iowa State 61
Stanford 94, Santa Clara 57
Kansas State 70, Bowling Green 60
Vanderbilt 67, Morehead State 47

Second Round
Monday, March 20
Michigan State (29-3) vs. Louisville (24-7)
Florida State (24-7) vs. Connecticut (24-7)

Semifinals
Tuesday, March 21

Championship
Tuesday, March 22

THE FINAL FOUR

Indiana, Duke, Stanford, Baylor

Sunday, April 3

Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Temple Regional champion

Philadelphia Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Tuesday, April 5

Championship



In three seasons at Saint Louis, Washington coach Lorenzo Romar was 5-1 against Louisville, the Huskies' opponent on Thursday night.

Huskies get early start at Albuquerque altitude

By Jim Cour
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Washington Huskies got an early start on playing at another level.

The Huskies flew to Albuquerque, N.M., the site of their regional semifinal against Louisville, on Monday to get accustomed to the city's 5,314-foot altitude. The team normally would have left on a day later to prepare for Thursday's game, but coach Lorenzo Romar wanted his players to work up their endurance.

"When you first hit the altitude, you run up and down the floor three, four times and you feel like you're exhausted and you can't catch your breath," Romar said before the team left. "Some are just able to play through it, no big deal. Then, some others, it just affects a little more."

The top-seeded Huskies (29-5) open the Albuquerque Regional against Louisville (31-4), while West Virginia (23-10) takes on Texas Tech (22-10) in the other matchup. The winners of each matchup will play for a trip to the Final Four.

Romar, who is visiting Albuquerque for the first time, said he's talked to a lot of coaches and former players about playing at The Pit at the University of New Mexico.

"I've been told if you're there two days, three days, then you become used to it and it doesn't affect you at all," Romar said.

Romar was more concerned about coach Rick Pitino's Louisville team and its star player, 6-foot-7 junior forward Francisco Garcia.

The Cardinals won the Conference USA regular-season and tournament titles.

"Coach Pitino knows exactly what he wants," Romar said. "If anything his team is doing from the first day of practice or recruit-

ing that doesn't reflect that, he fixes it quickly. He knows how to win ballgames."

But in the 2001-2002 season, Pitino's first at Louisville, Romar's Saint Louis teams were 2-0 against Pitino's teams. In three seasons at Saint Louis, Romar went 5-1 against the Cardinals.

While Louisville has Garcia, the Huskies rely heavily on their 5-foot-9 junior guard, Nate Robinson, a starting comebacker on the Washington football team as a freshman. Against Pacific in the second round of the NCAA tournament, Robinson scored 18 of his 23 points in the second half.

"Nate's been playing good basketball all year," Romar said.

"You watched him enough to know the bigger the game, the bigger the event, the bigger he gets. And there's a lot at stake here."

Robinson has said he'll make a decision about his future at Washington after the season. He may pass up his senior season and enter the NBA Draft. Right now, he's concentrating on trying to win an NCAA title.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," he said. "It's an opportunity for us to go as far as we possibly can. We're trying to get to the Elite Eight, the Final Four, the final two and hopefully win the national championship."

While Washington beat Pacific by 18 points, Louisville won by 22 against Georgia Tech in the second round.

The Huskies are a quick, talented team that lacks size, but the similarly athletic Cardinals are a mirror image of Washington — with no starter taller than 6 foot 8.

"You can get 9 foot tall, but who's going to get there first?" Romar said. "I think our quickness allows us to go there. But Louisville negates that quickness a little bit because they have the same advantage that we have."

By JEMELE HILL

The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

Don't know about you, but my NCAA tournament bracket looks like something a 2-year-old drew at Head Start.

I don't blame this entirely on my own stupidity. Instead, I blame NBA Commissioner David Stern.

If Stern would have been adamant before now about an NBA age limit,

there wouldn't be a couple of so-so teams — also known as Bracket Destroyers —

still alive in the NCAA tournament because average talent prevails in a watered-down product (see the New England Patriots).

Thankfully, the NBA's collective-bargaining agreement expires at the end of the year and insiders say the players' union is ready to accept a rule that would require players to be 20 years old or two years removed from their high school graduating class to enter the NBA.

Now before the shouting begins about the American right to make ridiculous cash without restraint, everyone take a look at their NCAA tournament brackets and tell me they wouldn't want to see LeBron James playing in this year's NCAAAs. Didn't think so.

College players staying four years will never be the norm again, but the proposed age limit will at least allow the sport to return to a time where there was better competition and enough juicy individual matchups to make the excitement of the tournament last beyond the first weekend.

I remember when Michigan's Fab Five — later named the Cash Five — got to the championship game in 1993. The Wolverines did it with first-round picks Chris Webber, Jalen Rose and Juwan Howard, who all remain in the league. To get to the title game against North Carolina, they had to beat a Temple team with Eddie Jones and Aaron McKie, who both are still in the NBA and were high draft picks at the time. Once the Wolverines faced UNC, it was Webber vs. Eric Montross, the national player of the year. There was UNC's tradition and a great talent against big men to feast upon.

Compare that to this year's tournament, where No. 6 seed Wisconsin beat 11th-seeded Northern Iowa and No. 14 Bucknell for the right to play No. 10 North Carolina State in the Sweet 16. Too many double digits for me. And of the four schools, the only drafted player is probably N.C. State's Julius Hodge. When N.C. State and Wisconsin meet, the most intriguing matchup will be whether mascot Bucky the Badger can take on both N.C. State

Commentary



If the NBA didn't allow high school players to enter the draft, 20-year-old LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers (23) might be part of a stronger pool of talent in this year's NCAA tournament.

representatives, Mr. and Mrs. Wuf.

The lack of marquee names hasn't prevented us college basketball fans from watching the NCAA tournament. Ratings for the first four days of the tournament were the highest in 11 years. But that can be attributed mostly to the tournament's setup, which makes the Bowl Championship Series seem downright communist.

When the championship games comes the first weekend in April, there won't be enough stars to draw greater interest from the public. And CBS is playing a team such as Wisconsin-Milwaukee — I dare you to name anyone from that team — doesn't last past the weekend. Too bad the age limit isn't in place now because the NCAA tournament field might consist of budding Orlando Magic star Dwight Howard and slam-dunk champion Josh Smith. Both have been fabulous NBA talents, but would be bigger stars after a college stay.

Besides, if you're a good col-

lege player, those are the guys you want test yourself against in the tournament. Not Vermont guard T.J. Florentine — no offense.

"The NCAA would definitely be better because there would be more young talent and more competition," said Hodge, a senior.

To this day, the 1979 title game between Magic Johnson's Michigan State and Larry Bird's Indiana State remains the highest-rated championship game ever. The two best players in the nation duked it out for the biggest prize, which served as the perfect introduction for the great Celtics-Lakers rivalry and two Hall of Fame careers.

The NBA has tried to force-feed us a Carmelo Anthony-LeBron James rivalry, but it lacked history and we lost interest. Imagine how much easier the rivalry would sell if Carmelo had played LeBron in an NCAA title game? And maybe with bigger names in the field, I'd finally stand a chance of beating my cat, Venus, in our in-home tournament pool. She picked Bucknell.

Panthers put UW-Milwaukee on map

No. 12 seed carrying banner for underdogs in tournament

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

BEFORE LAST WEEKEND, Wisconsin-Milwaukee was best known for being the school the late Israeli prime minister Golda Meir attended.

For "Happy Days" aficionados, it's where Richie Cunningham, Potsie Weber and Ralph Malph hit the books when they weren't hanging out at Arnold's Drive-in. Now the No. 12 Panthers are the lowest seed remaining in the NCAA tournament, holding the banner for all the mid-major who dream of knocking off the big basketball schools like Alabama and Boston College, both of which fell to Bruce Pearl's pressuring Panthers, champions of the Horizon League, last week in Cleveland.

UWM is a commuter school of 25,000 that has gone from NAIA Division II to NCAA Division I in a little more than a decade.

When athletic director Bud Haidet was hired in 1988, he counted 65 fans at his first basketball game and many of them mistakenly handed back the pom-poms he gave them on their way into the arena.

Now, UWM is taking some of the spotlight off Marquette, just six miles away, which went to the Final Four two years ago, and the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where the Panthers, under former Panthers coach Ryan, are also in the Round of 16.

There wasn't a lot of buzz on campus Monday, however, because spring break just started. "We only have one dormitory but I still feel the support. I've gotten lots of e-mails," guard Ed McCants said.

About 50 people, mostly friends and family, greeted the Panthers at Mitchell International Airport upon their triumphant return Sunday.

On Monday, players entering the Kiosco Center to practice weren't met by a throng of fans but by two men seeking autographs on four deflated basketballs, items that might very well end up on eBay.

"It's quieter than usual today except for you guys," forward Adrian Tigert said of the 50 or so reporters who converged on the campus.

Some students gathered at the campus bookstore to buy commemorative T-shirts, among them Nicole Dzomba of Milwaukee.

"It's real exciting, it's very cool," she said as she picked out a yellow T-shirt. "I think everyone's happy but nervous, too." Other students raced to the ticket office to put their names in for the 1,250 tickets made available to the school for the Panthers' next game, against top-ranked Illinois on Thursday in the Chicago Regional.

Pearl hoped the biggest crowd of reporters to gather at one of his practices would ask about the David vs. Goliath story line. He wanted to rave about his stars, McCants and Josh Tucker. He preferred to talk about how no No. 12 seed has ever beaten a No. 1 seed.

"We're trying to do something that's never been done. We're trying to make history," he said.

He even pitched a story about Illinois coach and Milwaukee native Bruce Weber playing his alma mater, where he unsuccessfully tried out for the UWM basketball team.



Wisconsin-Milwaukee coach Bruce Pearl watches practice Monday in Milwaukee. The Panthers upset Alabama and Boston College; they face No. 1 seed Illinois on Thursday in the Chicago Regional semifinals.

But what just about everyone wanted to know was Pearl's latest thoughts on the Deon Thomas scandal at Illinois 16 years ago.

Pearl was an assistant at Iowa when he secretly taped a conversation with Thomas during which the player appeared to confirm that Jimmy Collins, then an assistant at Illinois, had offered him \$80,000 and an SUV to sign with the Illinois.

Thomas has always denied the allegations and the school was cleared of them, but the 16-month investigation found several other infractions and Illinois was barred from 1991 postseason play by the NCAA.

ESPN's Dick Vitale criticized Pearl for committing "career suicide."

To this day, Collins, now the coach at Illinois-Chicago, refuses to shake Pearl's hand.

But Pearl said he would do what he did again.

"Regrettably, I would because of principle and I'm a bit of an idealist," Pearl said. "But a lot of people got hurt in that situation and it's unfortunate. ... I just knew what was happening and the folks at the University of Iowa wanted me to document it."

Pearl said his only regret is "if it's taking away from UWM and these players."

This will be the first time Pearl has faced Illinois as a head coach, but he doesn't think that will put an end to all the talk about his role in the scandal.

"It's never going to go away," he said.

Weber is aware of the acrimony many Illinois fans and supporters still feel toward Pearl.

"I've heard some things I can't even say in the press conference," Illinois coach Bruce Weber said Monday. "I understand it and I'm not downplaying it. But at the same time, we need

Wis.-Milwaukee (26-5) 2004-05 schedule	
117 Prairie View	55
87 Wis.-Parkside	55
89 Air Force	57
57 S. Dakota St.	54
89 at Ill.-Chicago	67
57 at Saint Louis	47
71 at Valparaiso	72
37 at Wichita State	68
62 at Kansas	73
88 at Manhattan, OT	70
68 at Butler, OT	76
71 at Loyola of Chicago	56
88 at Youngstown	41
86 Wis.-Green Bay	56
85 Wright St.	53
85 Cleveland St.	65
81 at Detroit	66
73 at Purdue	68
79 at Wright St.	70
85 at Ill.-Chicago	75
74 at Loyola of Chicago	67
90 Youngstown St.	67
64 Butler	53
87 at Hawaii	81
81 at Cleveland St.	76
94 Loyola of Chicago-x	86
59 Detroit	58
83 at Alabama-y	75
83 at Boston College-y	73
x-Horizon League tournament -NCAA tournament	

to best them to advance. That's the most important thing."

Pearl said because a whistleblower hasn't affected his ability to recruit in Chicago, however, and "we're still winning basketball games. Again, it's just not something new. Can you find one thing that's been reported new about basketball?"

At that point, Pearl was shown a copy of Monday's Chicago Tribune in which Thomas, who is now 34 and plays pro basketball in Israel, said Pearl was evil and called him a snake.

"That's not new," Pearl said. "He had [a similar] reaction 16 years ago, it's not new. I read it and I'm not going to respond to it, OK?"

Pearl does know that he'll get plenty of boos from Illinois fans and he said he doesn't fault them for that.

"I'm a good man and I'm a good father and I'm a good person," Pearl said. "But I was involved in something that did harm, so I understand if they don't feel like Bruce Pearl is their favorite coach in the country."

UNC-NC. State game would rival 1983 matchup of ACC teams

BY CAULTON TUDOR
Raleigh (N.C.) News & Observer

The one time that two ACC teams met for an NCAA men's regional championship produced a game as memorable as any in league history — N.C. State's 63-62 win over top-seeded Virginia in the 1983 regional semifinals, the ages-old rivalry was title game at O'Connell, Utah.

We could see something like it Sunday.

If the Wolfpack defeat Wisconsin and North Carolina eliminates Villanova on Friday night in the Second Round Regional, the ages-old rivals would play Sunday for a ticket to the Final Four.

It's difficult to imagine anything that could still stage that '83 game in Utah. Still, that was State against Virginia. A Carolina-State game, for Triangle buzz purposes, would rank among the most closely watched and popular ath-

Commentary

letics events in the history of the state.

State and Carolina almost crossed paths during that '83 tournament.

The Tar Heels were favored against Georgia in the East Regional championship in — where else? — Syracuse.

State's players, having locked up a Final Four berth in Albuquerque, N.M., eagerly awaited another shot at the Tar Heels.

State had won two of the three previous meetings.

"Bring 'em on. That's the team we want to play," State star Dereck Whittenburg said after the Pack had beaten Virginia.

But Georgia, inspired by Carolina center Sam Perkins' pregame remarks, pulled an 82-77 upset.

"We held up our end of the deal," State's Cozell McQueen said, "but where's Carolina?"

The Pack then whipped Georgia and Houston for the championship.

Herb Sendek's Wolfpack and Jim Valvano's 1983 team share many traits: limited depth, a heavy emphasis on perimeter shooting, injuries throughout the year and a knack for keeping opposing offenses off balance.

But that playing style also describes Wisconsin.

The Badgers haven't won a game this season when an opponent has scored more than 70 points, but they've allowed that many only five times.

In a 69-64 victory early in the season, the Badgers held Maryland to 40 percent shooting and dominated the boards.

One thing is certain: State and

Wisconsin will play classroom basketball. The final score promises to be in the 50s or 60s with the final three or four possessions likely determining the outcome.

Almost everyone expects Carolina to reach Sunday's game. The Tar Heels have been running up points so fast that hardly anyone has noticed senior Jawad Williams' recent offensive slump.

While he has struggled, the Heels have relied more on freshman Marvin Williams, and the scoreboard has not gotten a rest.

Fifth-seeded Villanova, the last Big East team standing, will have to play without stand-out forward Curtis Sumpter, which complicates Wildcats coach Jay Wright's game plan. Sumpter, the team's No. 2 scorer and perhaps its best defensive player, is out with a knee injury.

But the pressure is on Carolina, and pressure is no one's ally in

the NCAA tournament. Next to Illinois, the Tar Heels sit atop the hottest seat in the tourney when it comes to expectations. UNC destroyed Iowa State in the second round, but Villanova is rarely routed. Of its six losses, five were by six or fewer points.

The coaching staffs at Carolina and State at least have the luxury of some extra time to get ready for their regional semifinal games.

The two teams know each other so well that they wouldn't have to worry about putting in a lot of preparation for the regional final if both teams advance.

And if State and UNC meet for the third time this season, you can expect a closer game than the Heels' 24- and 10-point victories Feb. 3 and 22, respectively.

The players can't look ahead, of course. But the fans can, and they'll have a ball doing so.

What a time it would be.

Fiery Chaney will be back at Temple

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — John Chaney's loud, raspy voice will be heard in arenas across the country next season. Those near-perfect clothes and designer ties will again be left in shambles after most games.

The Temple coach known for giving scores of players ample opportunity to succeed is getting another chance of his own. Chaney will return to coach the Owls for another season, ending speculation about the Hall of Famer's future after a tumultuous conclusion to the season.

"This is just a reaffirmation of an agreement between Temple and John Chaney," athletic director Bill Bradshaw told The Associated Press in a phone interview Monday night. "There really wasn't anything different about this at all. There wasn't an earthshaking event or anything."

The ho-hum announcement was in stark contrast with the nearly month-long controversy surrounding the 73-year-old Chaney, who was suspended for five games for ordering rough play by one of his players.

"It's difficult to believe there are any other chapters to this," Bradshaw said. "This hasn't been underchronicled in any way."

Angered by what he thought were illegal screens by Saint Joseph's, Chaney inserted second-unit, 6-foot-8, 250-pound Nehemiah Ingram against the Hawks in a Feb. 22 game to "send a message."

Ingram fouled Hawks senior John Bryant hard. Bryant slammed to the floor and broke his arm.

In a surreal postgame news conference, Chaney screamed at Atlantic 10 Commissioner Linda Bruno and defended his actions by referring to himself as a "mean, ornery son of a bitch."

Chaney apologized to Bryant and his family and the Hawks forward returned to play in the NIT.

Chaney originally self-imposed a one-game



Temple coach John Chaney (right), talking with guard Mark Tyndale, sent in players to commit hard fouls that left Saint Joseph's senior John Bryant with a broken arm last month.

suspension the day after the St. Joe's game. The school extended the suspension to the rest of the season when it was learned Bryant broke his arm. Chaney then extended it to the Atlantic 10 tournament.

Assistant Dan Leibovitz went 3-2 in Chaney's place.

Chaney has a career record of 724-297. Among active coaches, only Bob Knight, Eddie Sutton and Lute Olson have more victories. Mike Krzyzewski is three wins behind Chaney.

Bradshaw said the university and Chaney would meet next fall to decide if Chaney wants to return for the 2006-07 season.

"Today was more important as a response to the media and the many questions more than it was about any internal evaluation," Bradshaw said. "I would say it's the status quo."

When reached at his home Monday night, Chaney declined to discuss his return for a 24th season with the Owls and 34th in college basketball.

"I'm not interested in talking to the media," Chaney said. "I have no comment."

Chaney, who won a Division II title during 10 seasons at Cheyney State, took the Owls to 17 NCAA tournaments from 1984 to 2001. But the Owls finished 16-14 this season and played in their fourth straight NIT.

Chaney, of course, is no stranger to controversy. He has a history of outrageous comments and insufferable antics, most notably threatening then-Massachusetts coach John Calipari during a postgame news conference.

Ultimately, Bradshaw and university president David Adamany decided Chaney's reputation as father figure to the scores of underprivileged players he's recruited and his string of 22 straight postseason appearances were enough to earn him one more shot.

"All of us in the athletic department are looking forward to turning the page," Bradshaw said. "For all of us, this will be the closing chapter."

At least until the two city rivals play again next year.

Skills: Bogut's passing lifts revived Utes

SKILLS, FROM BACK PAGE

tucky, but Bogut didn't seem very concerned.

"We haven't watched any film yet," Bogut said when reached by cell phone between classes. "But we're jelling as a team and it's certainly the right time of the year for us to be doing that."

Bogut made his way to Utah after former coach Rick Majerus recruited him from a distance. He had a decent freshman year, then blossomed on the Australian national team in the Olympics, matching up well against the USA's Tim Duncan.

He was entertaining some pro offers from European teams when Giacomelli flew to Australia to talk him into playing with the Utes at least one more year.

Bogut says he'll wait until the season ends to discuss leaving for the NBA. But, with possible top-pick money awaiting, it's a foregone conclusion he has only a few games left with the Utes.

Whether that last game comes Friday will likely depend on how much Bogut can involve his teammates in the offense once again. The Wildcats have a pair of 7-foot reserves and they can afford to give away some back home in Melbourne aren't exactly studying their NCAA brackets to see who Utah would play if it beats Kentucky. It could be Duke, of course, in a Final Four spot to the winner.

"It's not that big in Australia," Bogut said. "Every now and then I'll be in the paper, but that's doing it."

Villanova's Sumpter sidelined

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

VILLANOVIA, Pa. — When Curtis Sumpter failed to return from a knee injury in the second half of Villanova's second-round NCAA tournament game, coach Jay Wright expected the worst.

"He's the toughest guy I've ever coached," Wright said. "I didn't know what happened, but I knew when he didn't play, that it was serious."

Sure enough, Wright was correct.

Sumpter will miss the rest of the NCAA tournament after a MRI exam Monday revealed that he has a torn ligament in his left knee.

"Villanova's starting forward was hurt in its second-round win over Florida on Sunday, leaving the game after 12 minutes after scoring eight points and twice tumbling to the court and clutching his left knee."

"I'm not sad or upset," Sumpter

said. "These types of things happen every day. I'm just happy my team still got the job done."

Sumpter, the team's second-leading scorer (15.3 points) and leading rebounder (7.2 rpg) didn't play again, instead cheering his teammates.

"When it happened, I knew something was wrong," Sumpter said. "I knew something felt a little funny. I thought I'd walk it off and I'd be fine."

Villanova (24-7) beat the fourth-seeded Gators 76-65 and advanced to its first regional semifinal since 1988. The fifth-seeded Wildcats will play No. 1 seed North Carolina on Friday night in Syracuse.

"Our team has gone through this," Wright said. "We can still do it."

Wright said Sumpter has a history of not telling trainers how badly he's injured. The junior missed two games this season with a sprained right knee and

has worn a brace around that knee since returning after Georgetown on Jan. 15.

Sumpter, a second-team All-Big East selection, said the first time he was hurt against the Gators, he thought he had tweaked his knee and wasn't really concerned about a serious injury. Sumpter said the second time, his knee just "gave out" and he knew he was finished for the tournament.

"I kind of knew it was something serious because I never felt like that before," Sumpter said.

Sumpter's injury is a serious blow to the Wildcats, who are chasing their first national championship since 1985. Besides being Villanova's only legitimate presence in the post, Sumpter is versatile enough to swing out and play well from the perimeter, shooting 43 percent from three-point range (39-for-90).

Without their 6-foot-7, 225-pound forward, the Wildcats will expect more minutes and production from Marcus Austin and Chris Charles.

Davis still a Hoosier

The Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Mike Davis will remain Indiana's basketball coach, resolving doubts that persisted throughout the Hoosiers' disappointing season.

A written statement from athletic director Rick Greenstein included a warning that IU's 29-29 record over the past two seasons needs to improve. The Hoosiers went 15-14 this season, which ended with a 67-60 loss to Vanderbilt in the first round of the NIT.

Greenstein said Tuesday that he and Davis met in recent days and are committed to returning Indiana basketball to the country's upper echelons.

"While we share this common goal and are both confident that it will be reached, we also know that our record the last two years is not up to the standards to which Indiana is accustomed and to which we aspire,"

Greenstein said. "This is why we have set ambitious and achievable goals for next season of competing at a very high level in the Big Ten conference and successfully competing in the NCAA tournament."

Davis, who has three years left on his contract, has a record of 96-67 in five seasons since he took over for Bob Knight.

Davis led the Hoosiers to the 2002 national championship game during his second season, but his teams have missed the NCAA tournament the past two years. Indiana's 14-15 record during its 2003-04 season was the school's first losing season since 1969-70.

"I think that our non-conference slate and our success in Big Ten play have only helped our basketball team to grow and mature," Davis said in the school's statement. "The future of Indiana basketball is certainly bright, and I am excited to be a part of it."

SPORTS



Bonds says he might miss entire season after second surgery on knee, Page 27

Mad skills

Utah's 7-foot Bogut has NBA scouts drooling

BY TIM DAHLBERG
The Associated Press

There are times when he acts like the tallest point guard in the country, and other times when he's merely the most dominating inside presence in the NCAA tournament.

NBA executives salivate when his name is mentioned, though you'd be hard-pressed to find many basketball fans east of the Rockies who knew much about him only a few weeks ago.

Without Andrew Bogut, Utah wouldn't even be playing this time of year, much less have an outside chance of making the Final Four.

He's a superstar who just happens to need four other players on the court with him, much like Gladys Knight needed the Pips or Tom Petty the Heartbreakers.

"I think all his teammates understand they're probably very fortunate to be playing with him," Utah coach Ray Gianoletti said during a telephone interview Monday.

They should, because if Bogut isn't everybody's player of the year, something is wrong with the balloting. If he's not the first pick in the NBA Draft in June, some general manager is sleeping.

This is a 7-footer so gifted that even his coach isn't telling him to come back for his junior year.

"He's going to make a lot of money for a lot of years," Gianoletti said.

Bogut will make that money because he's one of those players who can dominate in many ways without having much of a supporting cast. That's so rare in college basketball that you'd have to go back to 1988 when Danny Manning led Kansas to a national title to see the similarities.

It showed on Saturday in Tucson, Ariz., when Bogut tied his season low with 10 points yet still managed to lead the Utes to a win over Oklahoma and a berth in the regional semifinals Friday against Kentucky.

■ Wisconsin-Milwaukee carrying the flag for mid-majors; North Carolina-N.C. State matchup looms large in Syracuse, Page 30

■ If your bracket's a mess, blame NBA Commissioner David Stern, Page 29

He's one of those players who can dominate in many ways without having much of a supporting cast.

Andrew Bogut, a sophomore from Australia, is a consensus No. 1 draft pick in June's NBA Draft, and the top candidate to win national player of the year honors. He has led Utah to the round of 16 for the first time since 1998.

AP

The Sooners wanted to push Bogut around and beat him up in the low post, so Bogut switched to the high post and acted like a point guard, dishing off passes to appreciative teammates for easy baskets. He was credited with seven assists, and he also managed to grab 11 rebounds.

"Bogut made a lot of good passes," Oklahoma's Johnnie Gilbert said after the game. "I thought a lot of times we would pick it off, but somehow it got through."

Think about it. When is the last time you heard an opponent praising a 7-footer center's passing ability?

"He really has operated as a point guard all year," Gianoletti said. "Some- times people just see he leads the country in double dunks. But every time he touches the ball something good happens for our team."

On Monday, Bogut was just another sophomore on his way to class. That is, if big, tall sophomores with thick Australian accents and shaggy

haircuts are the norm in Salt Lake City.

Up in the Huntsman Center, Gianoletti and his assistants were working up a game plan for Ken-

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Chaneley will return to Temple's bench next season; Indiana's AD says Davis will stay

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Top-seeded Michigan St. squeaks past Southern Cal; Arizona State ousts Notre Dame

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With Duncan on injured list, Spurs fall to Knicks; Magic beaten by Bobcats

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Passing: Praised as one of the most adept passers ever for a 7-footer, Bogut had eight assists in the Final Four victory over Oklahoma and averaged 25.5 a game during the season, tops among big men in the Mountain West.

Inside presence: Naturally, some- one of Bogut's dimensions can dominate near the basket. The sophomore led Division I players in rebounding (12.9 per game) and ranked second in the Mountain West Conference in blocked shots (1.9 per game).

Utah's Andrew Bogut: A man of many talents

Shooting: He was 12th in Div. I with a 52.9 field-goal percentage, eighth in MVC in free throws (71.1 percent) and made 37.5 percent of his three-point attempts.

Ball-handling: The Aussie is so talented with the basketball that he often operated as a point guard in Utah's half-court sets. That was the case against Oklahoma on Saturday when he was situated at the foul line.

